









Italian.

analy d 263 March 1935

Parents arrived in 1885 and went to Jersey City to live, where his father got a job with the Central R.R. working on section gang. He had only been married six months when he left Italy. There were five children three boys and two girls, all born in Jersey City, also educated there.

The two oldest boys went to work for the same R.R. after they left school, and worked for them until the war. The were in the Army during the war but never saw service overseas. The youngest brother was in the Navy during the war and made several trips across.

In 1921 the family moved to Los Angeles where the two oldest boys secured work with the S. P. R.R. They were both married in Los Angeles, one in 1924 and the other the year following. The youngest boy went back into the navy in 1922 and is still in.

The Father died in 1929 at age 64. The mother in 1932, age 62.

In 1926 the second son quit his job and came to Oakland. He was employed by an oil company here until last year when he lost his job. Is now selling oil as a small independent jobber but business is very poor and barely makes a living. Has two children both girls one seven and the other five.

Both sisters are married & live in Los Angeles

The depression didn't seem to affect this party



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until recently. Has tried to keep from dipping into his savings but finds it necessary from time to time. Hopes things will get better so he can get a regular job again. He started to buy a home in Oakland about a year after he came here and since he lost his job last year has not been able to make regular payments.

Thinks the oil code is N. G. because it stifles competition in the oil business. Before the code, there were plenty of jobs in his business but since the code jobs have been scarce.







D308

- 1 - Harold Thompson

- 6 hours -

Charley — was born in Turin, Italy. His parents came to New York when he was two years old.

His father, who was then about twenty five, thought he would have a better chance to make money in the United States.

He had a little money, and bought a fruit stand in the Italian Quarter in New York.

When Charley was ten years old they moved to Oakland, and his father started a grocery store here.

Charley graduated from High School in Oakland. His father wanted him to work in the grocery store, but Charley thought he could make more money at factory work. This was in 1928, when work was plentiful.







He got a job at four dollars a day in Rheems plant in Emeryville.

In 1930, when he was nineteen years old, he married an American girl of German parentage.

In 1931 he was laid off on account of lack of work, and spent the next two years working for an Italian grape-grower, a friend of his father, near Lodi. He and his wife lived on the ranch, and worked by the month.

He got a job at the Parafin Co in Emeryville in 1933, but it only lasted a few months. He is working in Sera now, but expects to go back to Lodi to work in a few weeks. He and his wife are living







now house keeping & owns an Irish  
Cock and hen. They have no  
children. They pay \$4 a month  
for one room and a kitchenette  
with utilities furnished.

They have never looked for  
recruits. As his father is doing  
very well with his store, and  
helps him out with a little  
money occasionally.

Shirley says his father is glad  
he came to this country, as he is  
better off economically than he  
could have been in the old  
country, and he likes the  
life in this country better.

Shirley himself would be sat-  
isfied to get just so he could  
get enough to eat, a little  
to drink and a chance to go to  
once in a while.

Harold Thompson







## Subject - Italian

This man was born in Trino, a small town in northern Italy, in 1898. His parents were engaged in silk culture & after learning a few fundamentals in the neighborhood school he was set to work at very unimportant tasks. He worked a little over a year when his family left Italy for New York where they stood for a number of years.

While in New York he went to school for a few years working after school, selling papers. He later quit school & worked at a number of jobs including errand boy, shirt factory worker & others of a like nature.

He & his family left New York for Chicago in hopes of finding conditions better there. While in Chicago he worked as a pool room & bowling alley attendant most of the time doing a little bootlegging on the side. Certain disputes occurred between him & a few of his friends which made living in Chicago risky, so he left Chicago rather hastily arrived in San Francisco, where he worked at various jobs at speakeasies & poolrooms with only poor financial success.

He married an Italian woman & received a job in her father's fruit market in Oakland, where he is now employed.

The depression was the controlling factor in regard to settling him, for the large profits made in Chicago were spent as fast as received & shady business really didn't pay sufficient financial returns to warrant

the risk. At present he is living modestly but fairly comfortably. His income is small but comparatively speaking he is getting along well.

As he arrived in the United States at the age of thirteen he has encountered very little prejudice toward him as a foreigner aside from the petty schoolboy squabbles between him and other foreigners of a different nationality.



1170

February 1943

F. S. was born in Lucca, Italy, November 18, 1894 -- on a small farm.

There were eleven children in his family.

He attended school in Italy and graduated from grammar school.

At the age of 15, F.S. left Italy -- and upon his arrival in the U.S. -- went to Bakersfield, California, --- to the home of one of his brothers, who was working on a ranch in Bakersfield at that time.

F.S. obtained work with Miller & Lux Cattle Co. -- and remained in their employ for 5 months.

He then went to Healdsburg, and worked on a ranch near there for two years.

When he was about 18 years old, F.S. went to San Francisco and obtained work with a fruit company. This job lasted about a year.

Later, F. S. opened a wholesale and retail grocery and liquor business. He operated this store for three and a half years, at a moderate profit. During this time he married a California born Italian girl.

At the end of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years, he sold out his business and returned to Healdsburg, and ranched with a relative for the following 3 years. His wife presented him with three children during this period.

He then bought a ranch in Healdsburg, at the expiration of the three years partnership, and has owned it since that time.

He lived on his ranch and worked it for eleven years.

After repeal F.S. opened a wholesale liquor store, and has been operating it for about a year.

. . . . .











offered so much more for a young  
fellow who was at all ambitious. So he

completed, to live with an old friend of  
the family. anxious to learn a trade he  
finally became interested in plastering.

But he was not satisfied with  
this. He began to learn the  
trade and the master taught him the  
language. But perseverance won for  
him. He took on a different aspect. He  
made a business for himself and became  
quite good. He is now married and has  
children and although he has been  
rather hard working he is not complaining  
and is able to make a comfortable living.  
He is proud of the fact that he is a  
citizen of such a great country and has  
done so well.

By [illegible]  
1907





2,11/35 N 114

I was born in Losenzo - Italy on the  
23<sup>rd</sup> day of October - the year of 1897 and left  
my native Country for the United - States 23  
years ago, where I have made my home since  
that time on. My reason for leaving Italy  
the United - States, was to better my conditions,  
which I am very grateful to the United - States  
for same. Therefore I have no desire to ever  
return to my native - Country. My profession  
in the old - Country, was a fruit - Dealer, however  
my profession here in the United - States is the  
general - merchandise business. My relation to the depression  
will say I have been very fortunate all the way  
through same. I am married and have two children  
both of them were born in the United - States. which  
I am very proud to say.





Steve — was born in a little village in the northern part of Italy. He had eight brothers and sisters. The family was very poor. His father was a stone mason and Steve worked with his father and learned the trade.

They had relatives in the United States who wrote occasionally, with glowing accounts of the money to be made there. The family decided to try to get enough money together to send Steve to America, and that he would make enough to send for the rest of the family.

When Steve was eighteen they had saved enough and he was sent to his uncle in New York.

His uncle kept a small fruit and vegetable store in New York and Steve went to work for him. Most of these customers were Italian.





and nearly all the speech he heard was Italian but I told was ambitious and realized that he would have to learn English to get anywhere, so he used every opportunity to learn it.

He soon realized that he could never earn enough, working for his uncle, to bring his family over so as soon as he had saved enough for his fare he bought a ticket for California where he had another uncle, a <sup>gold</sup> miner, in <sup>California</sup> <sup>Idaho</sup>.

He saved money here, but on account of the World War he could not send for his family for several years, and by the time it was over his father and mother were both dead, and the rest of the family scattered.

In Idaho, he married the American





born daughter of one of the Italian ranchers. Her father wanted him to buy a small vineyard and settle down as a rancher, but Steve did not like ranching very well and decided to start a grocery store in Oakland.

He ran the grocery until 1932, when he lost it, on account of business falling off and too many bad accounts. He lost both the store and his place of residence, as he had owned the building and lived over the store. Since then he has been on Relief and worked on the CWA and S. E. R. A.

He is 46 years old now and his family consists of his wife and four children, three girls and a boy. The oldest child fourteen years old.

Steve is of medium height and rather light complexion. He is intelligent and reacts quite a





it, both in Italian and English.  
He speaks English with very little  
accent.

He considers himself lucky to  
be in the United States even working  
on S.E.R.A., instead of being in Italy  
under Mussolini. He thinks though  
that we are in danger of Fascism  
here, and says that if it comes  
here, he would rather be in Italy  
as it will probably be much worse  
here.

In political views, he is somewhat  
radical, as seems to be increasing  
the case among the more intelligent  
of the working class.

As to survival of old country customs,  
Steve says that he thinks he has  
left all his old customs and most  
of his old ideas behind him in  
Italy.

The family live in a rather  
shabby four room house in the





Northwestern part of Iceland.  
He still has the furniture that he  
had before the explosion so the  
house is well furnished. The house  
has a good bathroom which Steve  
says probably raises the rent two  
dollars a month. He says it is  
worth it, which shows that he has  
left some of the old country customs  
behind him. He pays eleven  
dollars a month for the house.

Harold Thompson



2/12/35 N 115

I was born in Congo - North - Italy the  
10<sup>th</sup> day of March - the year of 1870. I am now  
living for the United - States when I was 18 years  
of age. I have been in the United - States for  
the past 28-years where I came to better my  
conditions of which I can readily say  
I never regretted. Coming to the United - States  
as I think it is more than a wonderful  
Country, therefore I have no desire to ever  
return to my native Country as the States  
are plenty good enough for me. My profession  
in the United - States is the Liquor business  
and my relation to depression will say I have  
held my own all the way through same.  
I am married and have 3 - Children of which  
were all born in the good old United - States.





Miller

2116

Born of Italian parents, one of a family of eleven children, in the province of Ticino Switzerland. His father was a cheesemaker, and the family lived in a very small village almost completely surrounded by mountains. They had a small piece of cultivated land on which they grew the vegetables for the family use. They had no cows but instead had goats, the goats were used to furnish milk and butter for the family, occasionally they would kill one for meat. These goats grazed in the hills nearby and were usually cared for by the boys of this family, while the girls and the mother made the butter and did most of the work in the garden. They also cared for the chickens. At first their living was quite a poor one but somehow they managed to get along. This young Swiss Italian had a friend who had come to California and after being here two years he sent enough money to bring his friend out here after he arrived his friend also helped him secure a job on a dairy farm in Napa County. His first job was feeding stock and assisting on the farm, he earned forty dollars per month and board he was also furnished a bunk but had to buy his own blankets. This was in 1918 he was then twentyfour years old, not having but very little education he was content to stay on the





farm most of the time - as the other men employed there were - all his countrymen. He kept his first job for about one year - and - during this time he learned to milk, this was a hard task at first for each man is required to milk between twenty-six and thirty cows. By this time he had paid his friend back for his fare from Switzerland and had saved a little money besides, and in 1919 he quit this job and secured a job milking for an American on a good sized ranch. He was now paid one hundred dollars a month and board. Most of the men on this ranch were Americans, so by constantly mingling with them he soon learned to speak some English. He liked this new environment and especially so since he was able to save quite a some of money, and after working here for four years he was married to a girl of Spanish extraction. Being a good steady worker, his boss was quite fond of him and allowed him to bring his wife on the ranch to live and let them have a small house that was not occupied - and now not having to board at the ranch any longer he was paid more money and this helped to meet the expenses in his new home.



After being married for a year, their first child was born. First they had bought furniture, then an insurance, then a new car everything went fine for three or four years, children kept coming, untill now they have six. and in the last six or seven years - doctor bills for the children and their mother, along with insurance and other things has taken most of the money he has worked so hard to save all during these years, his wife has gone thru two operations, this alone cost several hundred dollars. He made a loan to a friend of four hundred and fifty dollars which he never got back, then he put over eight hundred dollars in a Gift Co. that went bust. Next his wife complained that the children had to go to far to school, then she rented a house in town and had all their furniture moved into it. So now the Swiss milkman has moved back to the bunk house and is doing his best to pay the expenses incurred by his family in town. He has now worked on this ranch for seventeen years without having a vacation. He regrets having tried to raise too large a family on a small income, his former income having diminished greatly since the depression.





Born in Italy 1892 of <sup>2417</sup> parents  
his father died when he was a small  
boy so he was unable to finish school  
and left school when 10 years old. Because  
he had to work and support his mother and  
three children he came to America in  
1913 worked in a laborer where ever  
he could get a job went to night  
school to learn the English language  
after mastering that he worked for a short  
time as an elevator operator & janitor which  
he is now he became Naturalized  
and his attitude ~~about~~ about his country  
is <sup>very</sup> but he is an American. During  
the world war he was called to fight  
but he refused to go and joined the  
U.S. Army he is single as he  
could not afford a wife. He says  
his idea about the depression  
is that people who have the money  
will not spend it now and ~~the~~ the  
biggest part of the money is in just a few hands





1/3/35

21/6

I was born near Rome Italy on a farm  
in the year of 1893 - June the 15<sup>th</sup> as my  
parents were all farmers in Italy. I have been  
in the United States for the past 20 years and  
hope to remain here the balance of my life, my  
reason for leaving my native Country and coming  
to the United States was to better my situation  
as things were not so good for me in Italy.  
my profession in Italy was helping my parents on  
the farm, my attitude toward the United States  
are so good to ever think of returning to my  
native Country, my profession here in the  
United States is the General mdr's business which  
I have done very good all through the depression  
therefore I have no complaint to make what so  
ever, and, can cheerfully say the old U. S. A. is  
plenty good enough for me.



133

Wald Thompson

Paul — was born in the northern part of Italy. His father was killed in the world war, and after the war, when Paul was fifteen years old, he and his mother went to live with an uncle in Switzerland.

Life was rather primitive in the Swiss village where Paul's uncle lived. All of their cash income came from the sale of cheese. His uncle kept both cows and goats. In the summer it was Paul's job to herd the goats. In the winter they cut their year's supply of wood. ~~The~~ The spongers folks had a good deal of fun skiing, and they had dances in the evenings.





Paul says he had a better time in Switzerland than he has ever had since he left there.

His mother died when he was twenty, and he decided to come to the United States. His uncle lent him enough money for the trip, with the understanding that he would pay it back as soon as he was able. He had a job arranged for with an Italian Swiss dairymaid near Oakland, so his fare was all he needed.

He worked for the dairymaid until 1928. He had been earning very good wages, and had about \$200 saved up. He was expecting to marry the daughter of one of their neighbors.





-3-  
and she wanted to live in Town  
so he invested his \$2,000 in  
a little <sup>grocery</sup> store in an Italian  
district in Oakland.

He did very well with the  
store until about 1930. From  
then on his business began  
to show less profits. He sold  
as much as ever but too many  
of his customers couldn't pay. He  
hated to refuse credit to old  
customers he says.

He lost his store in 1933.  
He worked on C. W. C. and is  
working on S. E. P. A. now.

They live in East Oakland.  
I have never been in their house  
but Paul says it is small,  
but comfortable and well enough  
furnished. They pay \$13 a month  
for it.

Paul's wife is of German ancestry.



but American born. She is big  
and husky looking. Paul is  
medium sized and neither very  
dark nor very light in com-  
plexion. They have two children  
a boy of six and a girl two  
years younger. The children are  
blonde like their mother.

Paul seems to be a very wide  
awake intelligent young fellow.  
He reads a good deal, he says.

Although he is having a hard  
time here he isn't sure that he  
would go back to Switzerland  
if he could. He is very sure  
that he wouldn't go back to  
Italy. He thinks from letters  
he has received, that con-  
ditions in Switzerland are or at  
least will be, as bad as they are  
here, and he doesn't think he





would like the life, climate  
etc. after living so long in  
California. He doesn't want to  
live in Italy so long as the  
Fascists have control.

Harold Thompson





A. L. born in Trent Italy 1877 of former Parents  
Went through grammar school and then  
joined the Army and was in band  
until he came to America 1911 Went  
to night school to learn the American  
language after that he went to work  
on a truck farm a few years later  
he became a truck driver. This is a big  
man for that he went to further work  
which he is now doing I ask him  
about his Country he said it was all right  
but he now belongs to United States he was  
in the American Army during the world  
war he believes to much gambling caused  
the depression as every one he thought was  
crazy about gambling and through their money  
away for it was so easy to make gambling  
he said now they must pay for their  
particulars as he thinks things are  
beginning to pick up now.

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John Perito born in Northern Italy 45 yrs. ago  
has had practically the same experiences as others  
of his race upon coming to this country.

His father was also a farmer in his own country.  
Had the average size family, four children besides  
his wife and himself.

John has been in Alameda for more than 25 yrs.  
coming from New York, where he lived for several years.  
I have known him more than 16 yrs. myself.

Different from most Italians who come to  
Alameda he did not seek employment in the  
vegetable gardens. He worked at manual labor  
for low wages and was generally employed.

He married in this country many years ago  
and has a son nearly 30 yrs old. His wife is  
still living. John was thrifty and has owned  
a home here for many years. He now lives at  
his ease. He was employed here by a local  
tenant contractor for about 15 yrs as helper but  
at the recommendation of the Librarian lost his job and  
has done nothing since.

John is a Catholic, speaks English better than most  
foreign born Italians and his employment brought him  
frequently in contact with Americans, is more sociable.





2/14/35

I was born in Naples - North - Italy on the  
10<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of 1886. My profession  
in my native Country was farming, my reason  
for leaving Italy was that I became very much  
dissatisfied there, and, decided to come to the  
United - States to better conditions, of which I did.  
I will also state that my parents were farmers  
in Italy. Since I have been in the United States  
I was engaged, i.e. farming for several years, and  
then gave up farming, and went into the liquor  
business, which I am still in. I will also state  
that I am more than pleased with the United  
States, and my attitude toward the my native  
Country with say I never have any desire to  
return to it again. I am married, and have  
3 children which were both born in the  
United - States. My relation to the Depression  
will say I have some, some, tough months, but  
as a whole, I have did very good the most of the  
time of depression.





1/15/35

I was born in Melita - North Italy on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
day of Sept 1895 - my father profession was musician  
of which he was a master in my native country  
my reason for leaving my native country and  
coming to the United States was to take up  
music for my profession. which I have done so  
and made a considerable <sup>success</sup> of it. I have my  
studio in New York City. It is more than  
justified to me and my country. I can say that I have no  
regret in my native country, as the good old  
U.S.A. is plenty good enough for me and, in regard  
and relation to depression will say, I of course  
felt it to some extent, but, however I have  
did my work and was able to hold my own  
all through the depression and have no complaint  
to make at all.



July 20 1873

I am now in Japan - July 20 1873  
July 20 1873. I left my native country  
for the United States 35 years ago, and have  
been here in the U.S.A. from that time on.  
My reason for leaving my native country  
was due to the fact that the business  
conditions were very bad here - I came  
to the United States to better my condition  
of which I did. I am a shoe maker, and in  
the shoe business. I was a shoe maker in  
my native country, and I am still in the shoe business  
in Italy, and I am still in the shoe business  
here in the U.S.A. I have 3 children - they were  
all born in the United States. Therefore I have  
no reason to ever return to my native country.  
For the good old U.S.A. is good enough for me.  
My relation to the depression only say I have  
had some slow times, but have found it through it  
therefore - I can truthfully say I have not been  
so bad at that.





Richard Wagner

1

2/1/22

John is an Italian, 22 years old, who came to the U.S. with his parents from Turin Italy in 1921 when he was 8 years old.

His father was a shop keeper in Turin for 10 years previous to ~~the time he came to this country~~ the time he came to this country. At the time of his leaving he had <sup>family consisting of a</sup> a son, serving in the Italian Army, a daughter 3 years older than John, his wife and John. He brought all but his oldest son, who is still enlisted in the Italian Army, to the U.S. with him.

The reason for the families immigration to this country was the belief that business opportunities were better and more money could be made here. The family had several relatives in and around the bay region, some of them pretty prosperous.

For the last 3 years John's father has been operating a small fruit & vegetable stand in East Oakland. Before that he had run ~~stands~~ similar stands in other parts of Oakland. The families living quarters are in the back of the market. The family owns a light delivery truck but has no family car.





... John's <sup>oldest</sup> sister is married to a San Francisco street carman who has an English name. He has a younger sister who was born here and is going to grammar school.

John graduated from high school. He lives with his parents and works in the market when he can't find other work. Last year he worked for the Continental Can Co. and expects to work there again this year. He has a crippled leg that causes him to limp and makes it hard for him to find work.

He went to a trade school in Oakland and ~~is~~ is convinced that if he can work several years for a large co. like the Can Co. he will be able to work himself up to a mechanic position and have a life time job. He very much dislikes work in the market and has no ambition to ever have such a place for him self.

He is completely Americanized in so far as speech and actions are concerned.

He hasn't much intelligence and a great deal less character. He has served a short



3

sentence for a petty theft. He has a  
deserved reputation of attempting to curry  
favor with his friends & foster by acting  
as a stool pigeon for them - informing  
them of any organizational activity among  
the men etc.

His father and mother both speak  
English very brokenly and ~~cannot~~  
except to make a sale refuse to talk to  
any one who can not speak German. They  
are both 55 or 60 years old.

Richard Wagner





Mike Mirro was born in Sicily Italy in 1872. His parents were poor people who lived in a village of fishermen; When he was a small boy he would go with his father and help him with the nets used to catch the fish, there were four other children in the family, Mike being the oldest, had to spend much of his time at sea with his father, and he never did attend school in his life. The men in this part of Italy where Mike was raised did most of their fighting with knives, and he likewise never failed to have one in his possession, and on one occasion he was forced to use it, the fight was settled however without anyone being seriously hurt. Mike was married when he was twenty years old, and at the age of twentyone he and his wife had a son, he was also named Mike. In 1893 he and his wife and son came to the United States they came third class and the fare was very small, at that time there was a great demand for men in this country to do labor on the railroads, Mike had the promise of a job before he left Sicily, thru some agent of the railroad co. so when Mike and his wife and son arrived in New York they were immediately shipped out west as far as Wyoming and he was soon put to work along with the foreigners on the railroad. For the next two





years he worked for the railroad company which took him all through Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada, he worked in construction gangs, bridge gangs and section gangs.

And 1903 he was in Ogden Utah working on a section gang and he met up with a fellow countryman who owned a small vegetable farm just four miles out of Ogden his friends wife had died and he was on the place alone so he welcomed Mike and his family to make their home with him. they run the place on shares and both were able to make a living. Mike's family now consisted of two boys and one girl. He liked the farm life as it gave him more freedom to do the things he liked. He remained on this farm for just over ten years and during this time his family grew to four boys and two girls. Not long after this the old man who owned the farm died and the place was taken over by relatives, so Mike had to find some other way to make a living. He had always had a desire to see California so that year he brought his family to Oakland, he got work again with the railroad co. on the section and his two oldest boys found work. None of his children went beyond the eighth grade in school. He feels alright toward his native country, but has no desire to go back.

Week 11

He thinks the United States is a wonderful country,  
 and much prefers California to the other states he  
 has lived in. His mode of living is much the same  
 as it was in his native country. They live in a  
 poorly furnished house and eat about the same  
 style of food he ate in his own country - none of  
 the family ever go to church, they enjoy having  
 company drink a little wine and love to sing  
 Italian songs. Three of the children are now  
 married. two married people of their own race  
 and the eldest son who was born in Sicily  
 married an American girl. one son is a boxer  
 the oldest son works as laborer, the others are  
 unemployed except for odd jobs. The oldest  
 girl ran away from home and now lives in  
 another state. The family has felt the depression  
 rather severely, but the father works part time  
 for the railroad. The father thought by having a  
 large family that when the children grew up they  
 would help take care of him and their mother  
 but now they are old enough to help, they  
 are unable to find work. he thinks it  
 would have been wiser for him to <sup>have</sup> had less  
 children and <sup>to have</sup> saved money for his old age.



Letter from Mr. C. C. ...

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the matter of the ...  
I am sorry to hear that you are not satisfied with the result of the ...  
I have been very busy lately, and have not had time to attend to the ...  
I am sure that you will understand my position in this matter. I am ...  
I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
C. C. ...

## Case Y. Re-

Case Y. Re- was born in Chieti, a medium-sized town not far inland from the East Coast of Italy, in the province of Abruzzo, in 1909. His father was partly of Greek extraction and had spent most of his life as a sailor in the merchant marine. Y. Re-, however, has no recollection of his father's sea life, except by word of mouth, for his father never sailed again after Y. was a grown child. His trade, after settling definitely in Chieti, was that of a head-carrier. When Y. was ten or thereabouts, or about a year after the war, his father left for New York where his (the father's) brother was employed in a candy factory. He was unable to get work at the candy factory, however, but, through the assistance of other relatives, he found employment at a rubber-heel factory in Pittsburgh.

Y. and his mother and two younger sisters remained at Chieti where they received regularly sufficient money to live on from the distant bread-winner. In 1924, the father sent for Y. but the other members of the family stayed in Italy. The idea was to bring all of the family to America as soon as possible and it was only the dearth of money which made the process so long. In the beginning his father had had barely enough to pay





his way over the sea; just as soon as he could save it he sent Y's fare; and eventually enough was scraped out of their small wages to finance the transportation of the mother and two girls.

Y. had had a very small amount of education in a parochial school in Italy, and as he left there at the age of fifteen and never went to school in America (that is - regular day school) it is apparent that his educational opportunities were indeed meager.

In Pittsburgh he worked in the same plant as his father. His job was that of cleaning the floor etc. and assisting the watchman. He worked usually at night, from 6 P.M. to 2 A.M. He believes now that during these night hours he really best learned the English language. His boss (the watchman) who was also Italian enjoyed killing the hours of the night by teaching him English and improving his speech.

His father died in 1928 of heart disease. When asked as to his mother's means of support, Y. H. - was hesitant, declared he hardly knew - probably his sisters helped out. However, he admitted his sisters are having a hard struggle to maintain their own home as



their husbands are irregularly employed.

At the present time W. R. is working in the "Capping Department" of the Oakland Mining Plant, where he makes fourteen dollars per week.

He is able to read easily but has no desire to read books of any sort. He feels he has no time to finish a book without having forgotten the first part when reaching the last. So he reads only the newspapers and the weekly magazines. He is still unmarried. He appears thoroughly acclimated to American milieu and as evidence of this is at present working with a native American of obviously Nordic ancestry.





(2134)  
analyzed

## Case J. G.

J. G. was born in Modena in 1911. His father was employed in a meat and provisions market. His mother was descended of a southern Italian family. He only dimly remembers his life in Italy, for, after two years in school, at the age of nine, the family came to America and at once to San Francisco.

His father had long desired to come to America and since he had saved a small sum and was out of work in Italy, they made the venture late in 1920. J. G.'s uncle, his father's mother, ran a small floral stand in S. F., and to him the family came. It happens that the original group is still intact now. His uncle and the latter's wife (they have no children) his parents, his two younger sisters, one younger brother, and himself, all live together.

He received a high school education and went a year at St. Mary's on an athletics award. He was unable to continue because his father not only could not help him but conversely, needed J.'s help to support the household.

His father worked with his uncle at





the flower stand up until four years ago when the business became almost unprofitable. His uncle still keeps the stand but makes very little. Both he and his father now work at the same place - a drive in market - where J. drives the delivery truck and his father clerks on the vegetable stand.



□

A

(2137)  
Analyzed

## Case, H. L.

H. L. is a woman of twenty-seven of American birth but Italian parentage. Her father was a Neapolitan and her mother a Sicilian. They were married in New York where they had first met. H. L. was born in Chicago but spent her childhood and the remainder of her life in California. She was four when her folks moved to San Francisco. Her father who had been a "boat man" (H. L. could not even now as to this) in his native country worked as a stevedore on the S. F. docks.

H. L. went through grammar schools and graduated from Galileo High in 1928. Where she <sup>had</sup> taken a business course. She was a good student and her lateness in completing High School was due to the fact that she had been out of school working for two years. She worked at a little soda-fountain and confectionery shop. It was a matter of necessity as the family was large (seven) and her father's resources few. However, what money she earned was largely left for her to spend as she wished and thus she saved enough to go back and finish High School.

Finishing school, she tried to find an office job and failed. She then went to work in a hardware 5-8-10 store. In 1931 she quit





this job to marry. Her husband was a distant cousin - at that time working as a dock hand at the Oakland port. He was out of work all of the winter of 1932-3 when W.D. was fortunate enough to make ends meet by getting on - first part time - Saturdays and evenings and later regularly - at a Clark & Waller store in Oakland.

Last fall, in October, she quit this as her husband was again making good wages. Her neighbor, a regular worker at the Reing plant, took her to the manager several months ago and she started work again there. She hated to be home alone, she said and wants to get a little money saved in case of illness or other emergency.

~~done~~





## Case E. S.

E. S. is the son of an Italian father and French mother. His father was a native of Messina where he had gone to a technical school. He (E.S.' father) came of a family of masons. He left Italy in about 1908-10 because he saw no opportunity there for a workman to advance himself. E.S.' mother's parents were bakers in Marseille. She came to America with her first husband, a baker, where they lived (in Newark, N.J.) until 1911 or thereabouts when her husband died of a cancer developed from nasal infection.

E.S. parents met in Newark where his father had found work in the railroad yards and his mother was working as a waitress. E.S. was born in Newark in 1915. When he was five the family moved to Union, Ohio where his father worked for the New York Central Railroad. Union was a "rail road town" where repair cars, a roundhouse, fueling & water-stations were located. His father worked bagging ties and other low manual tasks until 1930 when he was given a soft job (in recognition of his years of service) as a crossing watchman in Union, Ohio.

E.S. went to school until he was fourteen - sophomore year in high school - at which time he managed to dodge the compulsory





school attendance requirements and went to work in Vermillion, Ohio as a rubber operator's assistant. These were, oddly enough, the most prosperous days of his life, for, while a boy of under sixteen he made the magnificent wages of six dollars per day. He never made so good a wage again. He was laid off in 1930 and sunk to the comparatively degraded status of a farm hand. He had saved no money & was glad to get a job on a farm near Brownhelm, Ohio for his board and five dollars per week.

He next worked in the American Crayon Co. in Sandusky, Ohio in the packing department. When laid off here in the fall of 1933, he hitch-hiked with a fellow worker to Los Angeles. On the way they were stranded at Yuma Arizona where they spent six weeks working in a cannery in return for a few meals.

In L.A. he looked up an old friend he had known in the East who was now working as a truck driver for the Los Angeles Examiner. Through the latter E.S. got a job "stuffing" papers. He only worked at this on Saturday nights - for 10 hours at \$5.54 per hour but managed to live on the total - \$5.50 per wk. He explained that a great many men and boys were hired to "stuff" the inside section of the Sunday papers





into the outer section. In August, 1934 he came to San Francisco. He had had no special desire to come here nor no reason but it had profited him. In this way - through an employment agency he had got a job driving a truck - load of goods from L.A. to San Francisco - a one way consignment. He explained that this is often done - for it would be expensive for a trucking company to send a regular employee whose <sup>for</sup> trip expenses would have to be paid. For the paper's consideration that thing must be better a little further along is turned to the profit of business.

E.D. has been quite lucky as to employment since coming to San Francisco. After a few weeks of living on hand-selling and odd jobs he got a job at a fruit market in San Francisco. Two months ago the owner opened a new stand at Polk and Green and E.D. was transferred here. He was given a raise and now enjoys the relative prosperity which a salary of \$16 per week affords.





Case S. O.

TORIN

S.O. was born in ~~Torino~~ in 1894. His parents were solitary propertyless working class people who had come from the country. In Torino, S.O.'s father worked as a carpenter and painter. When he was seven he was sent to the Church school which he left when he was twelve. At the age of twelve he was apprenticed to a shoe-maker. He was taught the trade of constructing shoes by hand which of course was rapidly becoming a useless craft. The employer to whom he was bound moved his business to Messina when S.O. was eighteen after which time he never ~~heard~~ <sup>saw</sup> of his parents and only heard from them by an infrequent letter or from an acquaintance who had come from Torino. In the early part of 1917 he came to America with a fellow tradesman of Messina. They were simply "cobblers" or shoe repairmen now and the honor of the craft and guild spirit were things of the past.

Although S.O. had no money other than his passage, his comrade was possessed of the equivalent of several hundred dollars with which he intended to start up his own business. The latter's brother was running a small restaurant in San Francisco and here he planned to locate himself. They did not



proceed to S.F. directly, however, but worked for several months in an Italian shop in New York City.

S.F.'s friend found he could not give him employment when they arrived in San Francisco because his money would not go as far as he expected and he had to start out alone. S.F. was quite easily able to find a place, however, although his earnings were not large.

He has never, after all of these years, mastered the English language. He has worked in various shops in San Francisco and at times in Los Angeles and Long Beach. He is now working in Oakland where the owner works hardly at all and leaves the little business to him. He gets 70% of the profits which nets him \$20 to \$25 per week.

He married an Italian woman in 1918 and has three children. The eldest, a boy, works part of the time, shining shoes in front of the repair shop.



Donald Walters

1151  
Analyzed

Went to America in 1865 & 1866. He had a very good education, attending school 8 years. After that he learned the following trades and worked at the following things, which he now does for his living.

When relatives had migrated to America, he decided to come to this country. He first came to New York and then went to New Jersey, but because of the war he came here 2 years.

He then decided to come to Colorado. He has had several jobs in town and has been located at his present address for the past.

He entered the U.S.A. during the war for a period of 18 months. His record is as follows:

He is a lover of good music and does not play any instrument.

In comparing his own country with that of the United States he is the better of the two, as there is more

freedom and opportunity too.  
His father was a Thomas  
and in 1929 he has just managed  
to keep his business going, the



Italian.

Father came to U.S. when he was 16 years of age, in 1896. His father and mother had died in Italy, and his uncle and aunt, who had been in this country, sent him his fare to come here.

On his arrival in New York he went to live with his uncle, who secured a job for him, and sent him to night school to learn the English language.

He was naturalized in New York in 1904, married an American born Italian girl in 1907. His parents moved to California in 1904, and after establishing themselves on a vineyard in Sonoma County, sent for their son <sup>in law</sup> & daughter.

They worked there until prohibition came along then returned to Oakland, where he worked at numerous jobs.

Has four children two boys & two girls. all born in California, the eldest being 24 years the youngest 14. Both girls are married, both boys still living at home and working. The father has a small grocery store, and manages to make a fair living out of it.

Does not intend to return to Italy. No reason to. Always made a living in this country which is more than could be done in Italy. Besides he has two grand children and would like to have more.





Italian

(L144)

Parents both born near Florence, Italy. Came to New York in 1892. Oldest son born in Italy in 1890. Three other children born in New York; two boys and one girl.

Father secured work with a paving contractor in New York. Worked for him until 1900, when he went to work for a building contractor and learned the plasterers trade, and joined the Union.

The family moved to San Francisco after the fire of 1906. There being plenty of work in his line he accumulated quite a nest egg.

The two younger children completed their education in San Francisco schools.

The two older boys followed in their father's trade and were working pretty steady until 1930. Since then they have had very little work.

The father was naturalized in New York in 1900. He died in San Francisco last year at age of 69.

The third son learned to be an auto mechanic, and now has a small shop in Oakland.

All four children are married and raising families, the oldest having 3 children - all boys - the second son having 2 children - 1 boy & 1 girl & the third son has two children also 1 boy & 1 girl.

The oldest son, being too young to remember anything about Italy, has no desire to go back.

None of the boys are interested in politics and only hope things will pick up so they can earn a decent living for their families.





Taken all in all the U.S. is a pretty good place to be, and they think our President is doing a fine job.

Each of the boys own their own homes, altho not all paid for.





Born in Chile 23 years ago.  
4 years old stock. His early education  
was very short. He then worked on a  
farm until he was 16 years.

His family <sup>then</sup> decided to migrate  
to America. They came directly to  
San Francisco. He attended school  
for several years and then  
entered the insurance business,  
where he succeeded in saving considerable  
money, which he invested in real  
estate. He became the father of 2  
children. He is little time for  
any other activities.

Up to 1929 he was considered  
quite well-to-do. He passed away  
in 1932 and left his estate in care  
of his son. But when the Depression  
came his invested money and real  
estate depreciated rapidly.

Then he entered into various  
business enterprises, none of which  
were successful.

At present the family is living

on the little that was left.

Both father and son were  
passionately and played musical  
instruments, but they were not  
mechanically inclined.

The son is now married and  
the father of five children.

H. M. Barrett 22 - 6-16-1961

This is a story rather typical of the local Italians during our dry era.

Luigi is from Northern Italy - he came from in 1940. He left Italy when he was 15 and has been here in the Long Beach area 15 years.

His father was a farmer and owned his small farm, raised most of his own food and worked for others when possible.

Luigi worked at the Postery in West Alameda for several years but along in 1946 he concluded he could make more money at Bootlegging, like many other of his countrymen, and started what he called a joint bar in Alameda and, although he was arrested several times and fined he did make and save money. He would run a place until it got too hot and then close it and go to another and so on until the end of prohibition. He finally bought, from one of his countrymen, a half interest in a small gold mine in the mountains near Sonoma, Calif. The two of them are now working this mine and making a little money.

Luigi was married for a short time but they could not make a go of it and were divorced in 1947 - there was one child, a girl. He has never applied for citizenship.





H. H. Garrison 1836 - 6 Jan

4162  
Analyzed.

The Bruffone family came from Italy 45 yrs ago and have been in Alameda ever since.

The original family now have numerous descendants. The parents in Italy were farmers and owned their farm and were more prosperous than the average Italian farmer.

They rented land in West Alameda and went to growing vegetables for market and sold wholesale and retail. For years they sold their vegetables from door to door in Oakland and Alameda and made money. They have owned about twenty acres of land in West Alameda for more than 25 yrs. and have used this land all these years to grow vegetables.

Eight or ten years ago they subdivided 15 acres of this land, in the extreme Western end of Alameda into residential lots. Paved streets and cement sidewalks all laid but were unable to dispose of all of it. They are still farming this area.

They steadily employ 5 to 6 men. This family is now rich. They own residences and vacant lots here in Alameda.

They are all Catholics. They confine their sales now entirely to the wholesale and have eliminated the retail end of it.





Analysed (L163)

It is a juggle to me how these Old Country  
Italians can come to this country unable to  
speak English and so many of <sup>them</sup> unable to read  
or write in their own language and at the  
end of a few years, or small ways, own  
their home and have a little money laid away.  
They are thrifty. There are many American  
Italians working for the S.E.R.R. but very few  
of the Italian Born.

He is an Italian, 40 yrs. old, has been in  
this country 15 yrs. His father is a farmer in the  
old country and in poor circumstances.  
This man has been in America 15 yrs. and  
has worked all the time in local vegetable  
gardens for small weekly wages. He has money  
in the bank in fact, close to a thousand dollars.  
He can't speak English to be understood. He  
does not mix with Americans and with but  
few Italians. He knows about and does his own  
cooking and housekeeping. Has no pleasures other  
than visiting with two or three Italian families.  
Never goes to a movie or other place of amusement.  
He does not smoke or chew tobacco, in fact, his  
very name is a studied avoidance of the application  
of money. His life is very circumscribed in



fact he is like a man at the bottom of a deep well whose horizon is limited by the diameter of the wells mouth. His mind is limited and focused on saving money. Is such a life worth living. This case is not exceptional among the foreign born Italians in fact it is quite typical. He is not a batizon and has not intuition of knowing war. His great aim in life is to save his money and in his old age return to Italy and live at ease.

He cannot read or write his own language therefore is not aware of current events. He is not as mentally awake as one of our 12 year old school boys.

I said above that this case is typical I should qualify that to include the farming class only.





H. M. Barron # 23

6 Dec 1944

Barron was born in Italy 20 years ago. His father was a farmer. Barron came, with his parents, to San Francisco when he was five years old and was educated in the public schools of that city. He lived in San Francisco for ten years and then moved to Alameda where he has resided ever since. After leaving school he worked his apprenticeship in the plumbing trade at which he was employed until he entered the Alameda Fire Department where he was employed for 5 yrs. at the end of which time he resigned from the fire dept. to enter the Alameda Police Dept. where he worked for 12 yrs as Patrolman and, finally, a change of the Inspectors Bureau. In 1929 he was suspended from the Police Dept. under a sworn complaint charging that he had conspired to violate the National Prohibition act by drinking a glass of beer in a speakeasy in Oakland. Since his discharge from the Police Dept. he has been working at the plumbing trade and has his shop here in Alameda. Barron is now seeking the office of Police and Fire Commissioner and is a candidate for said office. The election will be held on the 12 of this month. Barron is married and has a son 12 yrs old. He also owns a nice home here in Town.





H. H. Leonard 24 - 1915

1915

Here is an Italian 60 years of age and has been  
in this country for 30 years. His father was a  
farmer and owned his farm in North Italy.

This man worked for the Rusty System in  
Cahoon for years and helped plant the Evergreen  
trees that you can see on the hills back of  
Berkeley and Piedmont. All his life he has worked  
at gardening and vegetable growing and is now employed  
in an Italian vegetable garden here in town. He  
paid \$2.00 per week and found out work from day  
light until dark. He is not married but owns a  
house and lot which is rented.

He is not a citizen, speaks English poorly, and has  
little or no contact with Americans. He has no interest  
or interest set aside of his daily work. In fact his life is  
very limited and his mental outlook is as limited as  
his life.



His Portuguese father was born in Cape Verde  
42 yrs ago. His father owned a small farm  
and made his living from the farm and by  
longshoring when possible.

Thinking of coming to the U.S. during the world War and was  
attracted to this country by the high wages paid at that  
time.

Since his arrival here he has worked at longshoring  
and aboard ships.

He is married and has five children. The oldest child is  
14 yrs old. He also says his wife has four children  
0. Portuguese. Both he and his wife speak English  
quite well.

His wife was born in the state of Portuguese Negro  
parentage.

He is quite steadily employed, owns a home in  
but owing to the size of his family unable to save  
any money.





W. H. Dawson - 24 - Jan 1911

Kake is 42 yrs old and came here from Japan 18 yrs ago. He was married in Japan before coming here and has a family of 2 girls and one boy all born in this country. The eldest child is 16 years old.

Before his arrival here he took up his residence in Los Angeles where he lived for several years and was employed by a Japanese, who was an importer of Japanese goods. Kake worked as clerk for this man for 5 yrs. and then came to San Francisco where he went into the importing of Japanese goods for himself. He is now quite well off. Own his business in L.A. and a house here in Alameda. He takes his family to Japan every 2 or 3 yrs. which costs them at least \$2000 a trip. He is socially of a higher class than the average Japanese with whom he usually comes in contact. When a Japanese comes to visit in L.A. he is generally one of the best Japanese reception committees. Also when ever a Japanese Government official is visiting San Francisco. He and his whole family speak English. His children speak it like a native. They are refined cultured people. His father was a merchant. Kake and his family are Christians and are members of the local Japanese Methodist Church. The children all attend our Public Schools.





H. H. Garrison #27. to her

1898

The Mexican has been in this state, from Mexico,  
for 15 yrs. and he has worked all these times for the  
Alaska Packers Coys. Every spring he goes with  
their fleet to the fishing waters in Alaska and  
returns in the fall and works the rest of the time in  
the Alaska Packers Plant here in Berkeley.

He married and lives in S. F. but has no children.  
His wife works in S. F. and consequently they have to  
be near it easier for her.

He is not a baptist and he is not taking down well  
to. He speaks English well.

Although he is Mexican born he is not a greaser.  
He is of Spanish descent or is a white and a good  
one. Between the two of them they are doing quite well  
but they own no real estate.

I do not know if they are saving any money or not but  
I do know that if he is like the majority of Mexicans  
he will spend his money as fast as he makes it.



Anton Pardo. was born in Italy about 1880. He came to America in his youth married an American girl of Irish descent. He was of the working class, had no education and the perpetual spirit of seeking a living militated toward keeping him in the inferior state. But he could not forget the pictures painted on his youthful imagination by the immigration agent of the free schools in America, where every one could get an education if he had the right intelligence. So he went to night school and in his spare time a citizen of his new country. But it was hard for a man to concentrate. On reading books at night after working with such a hard day, and soon the babies began to want the evening nurse he could not find a little. Little Anton gave up the idea of acquiring an education. He could read the newspaper. His job required no education and it soon became clear to Anton that there would never be a better one for him in America. As far as jobs were concerned America and Italy were no different for him and all his class. He had worked for the Great Range





Anton Pinedo - 2 -

"Municipal Utilities District for five years when the slump came. They began cutting wages and laying off workers, and Anton was one of the first to go.

He went to the home and protested the unfairness of the layoff when the company was still collecting rents from the same population as before. Surely they drank as much water as they had before and there was no water shortage. And further Anton said: "I have four small children and they need a little something to eat. Now shall I feed them?"

This is the boss's answer: "As far as I am concerned you can go and drop the kids in the bay."

Then let us remember that from a working class family such as this came Caruso, Shuman-Nink, Abe Lincoln, Bill Haywood, and Lenin.

Anton Pirelli -  
Italian immigrant -  
- Lucille Gillespie

Feb 11



A / 80 "My Section."

Mr. R. came from Italy over thirty years ago. His first stop was Boston, where he lived for about 1910 when he arrived in San Francisco. In the first few years in San Francisco he had no job and thus he made and lost money. During the world war he was in the army.

When he returned from the war he was not as successful as he was previously. The employment he obtained was in a canning factory and the work was only seasonal. In 1925 he succeeded in buying a small fruit stand in Berkeley, however he lost everything he had in less than a year. At that time he wanted to go back to Italy, but because of loss of funds and advice of friends he remained in the United States. In Italy he said, "Everybody can work."

In about 1926 he again succeeded to get employment in a canning factory and worked there for a few years, till about 1928 when an accident occurred to him. At that accident he lost <sup>part of</sup> the fingers of his left hand and was unable to continue work at that place, however he was compensated. With the money he received from compensation he began to play in the stock market and lost all he had in a short time. At that time the same man who advised him to play in



7. 2.

March - 1936

The stock market secured him a job in Low Society  
to clean windows and map the floors the stock  
rooms at that.





Italian-

March - 1936  
A 190

His grand parents came to New York in 1887, three months after they were married. His father was born in New York City in 1890, one of a family of three boys, all born in N.Y.

The grand parents & family came to California in 1908 where the father of the one interviewed went to work for a tile setter. When he was 22 yrs old, he joined the union and continued his trade. He married in Oakland in 1916. to ~~an~~ a girl of Irish parentage.

Three children were born of this union two boys and one girl, all attending school in Oakland.

The father has not had much work in just four years, but owns some property in East Oakland from which he receives some income.

His father was in the Army during the war but did not get overseas.

The boy is very much interested in aviation, has a newspaper route, and spends part of his earnings for material to build model airplanes.

Hopes when he is through school things will be better so his father can send him to aviation school at Oakland airport.





Italian

March-1936

2/19/1

Father & Mother both native born, in San Francisco  
Grand Parents born in Italy. Grandfather, up to the  
time of his death worked for Bartolini. Fish co in  
San Francisco.

Father & mother ~~that~~ married very young,  
his father being 20 yrs of age at time of marriage.  
had two children both boys.

Father was a truck driver for large drayage  
firm in S.F. worked pretty steady until 1931,  
when he was laid off. Since then has been  
working around wholesale produce district on  
part time work.

Party interviewed (oldest son) works at Chevrolet  
Plant, averages about eighteen dollars per week.  
Youngest son employed part time in a service  
station in San Leandro.

Thinks things would be lots better if the  
banks would loosen up with money, and if the  
government would not tax so much.

They are turning out quite a few automobiles  
and he wonders where the people are going to get the  
money to pay for them. He expects to see a big  
improvement in conditions after the bridge is  
opened for traffic. Thinks there will be a big  
real estate boom in the East bay then and  
hopes he will have money & money to buy some



land before the boom, but at the rate of increase in food & living, he sees no chance to realize his ambition.

Thinks N E R A wages has a lot to do with keeping wages in private industry at a low scale, but figures something has to be done to keep the wolf from the door for all those who have no other means of work.





Italian-

March-1935

2197

Father came to this country in 1894 at age of 17 years. Lived with relatives in Brooklyn N.Y. until he was 21 years of age. Was employed in a cigar factory in New York City, sweeping up and doing odd jobs around the factory for which he received three dollars a week. He worked at this for two years when he was made assistant shipping clerk & packer for which he was paid five dollars per week. Saved his money till he had sufficient to come to California where his sister and her husband were established. He arrived in San Francisco on his twenty first birthday with twenty five dollars in his pocket.

Lived with his sister for three years, until he was married. Was employed by the gas co as laborer until the quake & fire, after which he worked in the building business, until 1930. Since then he has not had much work to do, but lived on his savings.

Three children were born of two boys & 1 girl, the eldest being thirty two years of age - married, and has two children, the second being 30 years, also married and has two children, both are employed in an oil refinery near Los Angeles. The daughter is also married, her husband works for the Scavenger Co. in Oakland.

She is too busy raising her family and keeping house to worry about anything else.

She and her brothers were educated in San Francisco Schools, as was her husband.





Her father was naturalized in San Francisco  
in 1905. Her mother was born in San Francisco.  
The parents made a trip to New York in 1924 to  
visit relatives who are still living there, they  
did not like it there. Preferred California to New York.  
Would like to have made a trip to the old country, but  
lacked the money.



H. H. Barron ? 28 - 1st (d. 200)  
Analogue

J. H. ~~Barron~~ was born in north Italy in the vicinity of the city of Genoa. His father was a tenant farmer with a family of 3 children and in the usual financial condition of the average Italian of his economic class. He was born in 1895 and left Italy for California when 21 years old. He worked on his father's farm and did odd jobs for others up until the time he came to this country.

He came to this country with the hopes and with the belief that he would enter the economic structure.

Upon arriving here he immediately sought employment but, being unable to speak English, he was compelled to take employment with some of his own race and language in an Italian vegetable garden in the vicinity of San Francisco and for several years was thus employed by various Italian gardeners around about San Francisco until he had learned to speak a little English.

Eventually he took employment with a sheet metal worker in S. F. where he learned this trade. He has lived in Alameda for 15 or 16 years and has been employed by the People's Sheet Metal Works during this time.

He still thinks Italy is the best country on earth. He has not a citizen and I doubt if he will ever become one as he cannot pass the literacy test. His wife lost her citizenship by marrying him. He still adheres to his old Italian customs and





celebrated particularly in regards to the woman folk.

Since coming to Okla. he married a young woman of his own race but American born. She was schooled here.

Joe has 2 children, both girls. The oldest is 12 yrs the youngest 8. These children <sup>attend</sup> the local public school but do not mix freely with others outside their own race.

He is buying his home on small installments and the depression has affected him as well as the rest of us. The firm by whom he is employed has not, in the last 4 or 5 yrs, been able to keep him steadily employed. He averages about 4 days a week at small wages, although in the last 2 years he has averaged a little better.





— H. H. Barron has - the analyzed a 207

~~Rigan~~, or ~~an~~ Italian <sup>Immigrant</sup> from North Italy close to the City of Genoa. He was born in 1880 and was married in Italy when about 25 or 26<sup>old</sup>. He farmed a small piece of land and made but a scant living; therefore, to better his condition and, with the financial assistance, relatives in America, he came to California in 1922. At that time he was 42 yrs of age. He had ~~2~~ <sup>two</sup> children, both boys, born in Italy, who were, at the time of arrival in this country, 12 + 10 yrs of age. ~~very young~~.

The first few years in this country he was employed as laborer by various Italian contractors and vegetable growers until he mastered enough English to get by, and finally got employment as laborer with the F. & E. Co. San Francisco and now, thus kept up until his death 8 yrs ago. He never became a citizen.

His widow married a few years later and now her husband, himself and the boys live ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> a home. The mother can not speak English, neither can her present husband. Although she has had some years, the boys are sent to our local schools but never secured much learning. They <sup>were</sup> always in trouble with the



Tenant officer and attended school only when under the eye of this officer.

The oldest boy is married and has a son one year old. The oldest boy has no trade and is having a hard time of it. He is now employed by the S. E. R. R.

The younger son is doing better. He is a Longshoreman and is doing quite well working both here and on the San Francisco water front. He is unmarried. Neither of these young men own property and neither of them are citizens. These young men have no interest in our Government or knowledge of its functions and care nothing about it. All they want out of this <sup>country</sup> is the money they can make and to let alone. I know this to be their attitude for I know them both. I will state further, in fairness to them, that if they were living in Italy they would have the same attitude toward the Italian government.





Prodi immigrated to California, with his wife, from North Italy 23 years ago (1912) when he was born in 1885. He was of the Italian farming class and so was his father.

He came here to better his economic situation and not for any political reasons.

Like other Italians upon arrival here he was forced to find employment among his own people as <sup>laborer</sup> until such time<sup>as</sup> he had learned enough English to seek out side employment.

For twenty years, I know of, he has been working as window washer here in Alameda and has been busy at private homes, business establishments and offices, all this time. The nature of his work has brought in constant contact with Americans and consequently he is more conversant than most Italians of his class. He is a betypar and is raising his two children, a girl 17 and a boy twelve, to be good betypars. The children are being educated in our public schools.

He admits that the depression has affected his income but he is coming along alright. He owns his home which is nicely furnished.

So far as the survival of old country customs I am





Anda / sandhu  
10 hours

2811

Analy

Mr. Arturo C. was born on a citrus fruits ranch near Los Angeles, some 23 years ago. He is the son of an Italian immigrant, who bought a ranch in this country very similar to the one his family had lived on for generations back.

As a child Arturo enjoyed his lonely life on the farm, helping a bit in the fields and around the house. When Arturo started school, to which he was taken each morning by a ~~not~~ country school bus, he soon became a favorite with his teachers because of his mild and gentle, almost "sissy" behavior.

And leading such a calm sheltered life, Arturo finished grammar and high school. But he was not satisfied.

Under school supervision at first, and then independently, Arturo had been doing quite a bit of reading, mostly literature and philosophy, and he wanted to go to a University and really study philosophy intensively.

So, a semester after graduating high school, Arturo came to Berkeley to the University of California. Here, partially supporting himself, Arturo graduated last year as a philosophy major, — almost com-

pletely disgusted with the subject. He wants to study something "real" now, something of practical values to himself and others, but he considers himself too old to ~~start~~ begin studying any of the sciences now, so instead he's studying Romance Languages, & is very discontented.

Arturo's discontent goes deeper than the subjects he is studying. Intellectually he is more than a liberal, but for many personal reasons he cannot in any way express or work for his ideals, & consequently feels himself to be a very useless individual.

Arturo now lives in a tiny room in one of ~~San Francisco's~~ San Francisco's old "arty" building on Montgomery St. He commutes to school 3 times a week and the rest of time looks for and occasionally finds small jobs to supplement his dwindling ~~income~~ allowance from a family which can no longer support him.



History

12th July 1877

Born in Italy 70 years ago. He came  
to this country when he was 22 years  
of age with his family. For a while  
he worked in that job at my hand of  
work in the country. He got married  
by 25 years as a settled man. He  
married and in all present living son  
time father was a small landowner  
in Italy.  
He has had no modern education  
as he was in the island.  
He has now a little more  
education.  
I have 1944 has position. He was in  
the house about 10 years.  
He came to this country as he  
decided to see the world.





John

John is now 51 years old. He has a  
degree in school education and worked  
for a while with his father who has a  
good farm. He then decided to bring  
his family to America.

John arrived in the country he has  
worked as a farm hand a laborer and as  
a mechanical helper.

It seems that the cause of his coming  
is only for a short time.

Since 1907 he has found the work  
and a great amount of satisfaction he has  
been able to find in his work.





11 was in the hospital

He had been quite well  
and was able to walk in the  
hospital and the other men  
who were in the hospital  
for the first time in the

hospital. He was in the hospital  
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for the first time in the hospital.



Italian

Italy

d 233

March - 1935

Father was born on a small 'Villa' near Genoa, Italy, came to U.S. at age 26 - in 1888. Worked in New York City till 1892, then went to Chicago, because the family of the young lady he was to marry, moved there. As soon as he secured a job he married. Three children were born in Chicago.

In 1899 the family moved to California and settled in Colma where he secured work in one of the large cemeteries as gardener & laborer, where he worked until his death in 1933.

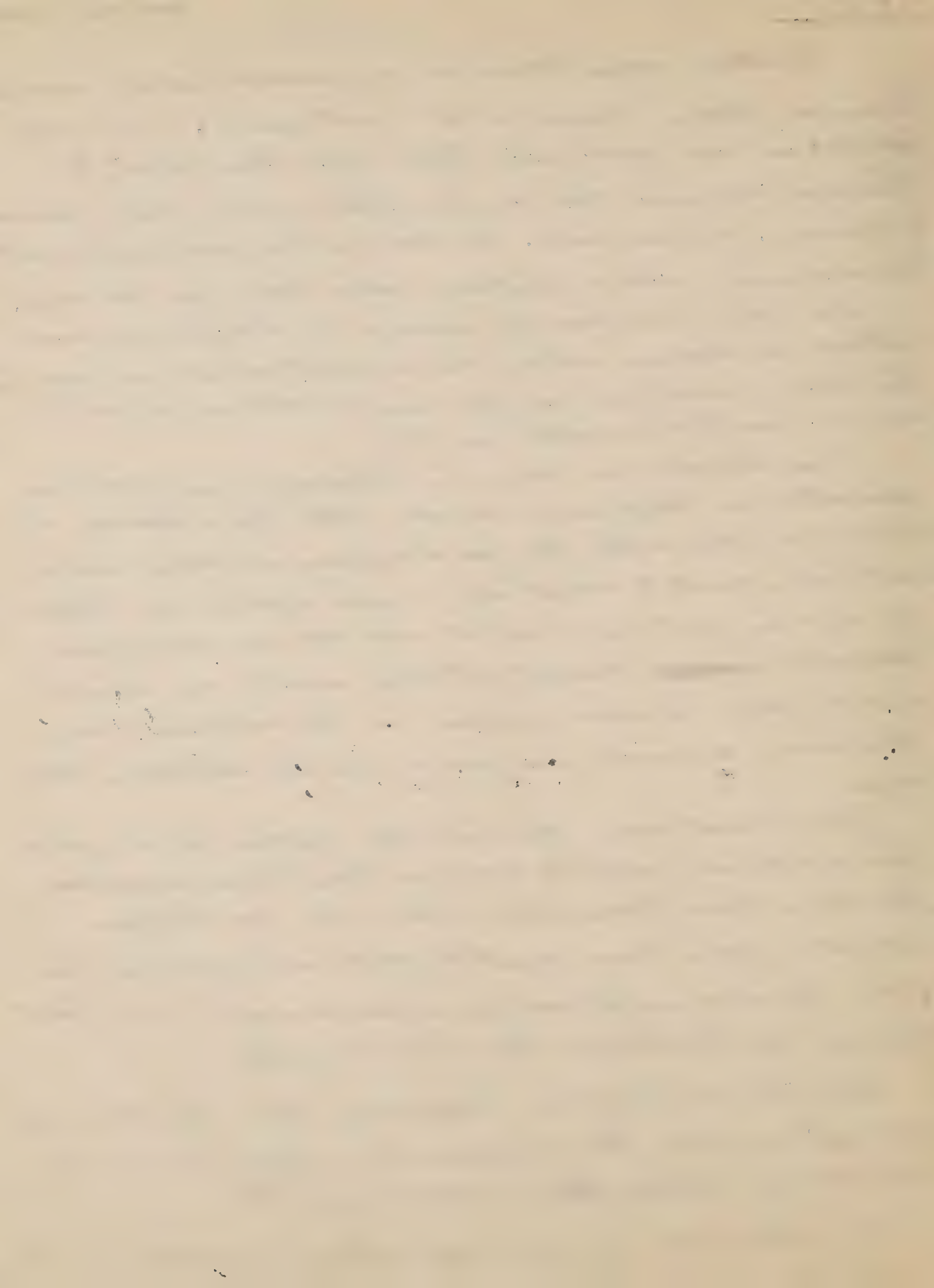
The oldest son, born in Chicago in 1894 was educated in California schools. After his schooling he secured a job with the gas company as meter reader and later went to work in a sub station as helper. In 1925 he quit and went to work for an electrical contractor. ~~He~~ worked at this until 1932 when he lost his job. Is now working on the Oakland bridge. Has been married six years, has two children, both boys.

The second son born in 1896, after he finished his schooling went to work in the Ford assembling plant in San Francisco, where he worked for about a year, then went to work in a garage in S.F. Is now employed as a mechanic in a Ford agency in Oakland. Is not married.

The third child, a daughter, born in 1897, was married in 1920. Her husband is employed by an importer of Italian food products in S.F.

The oldest son - person interviewed, worked in the





ship yards during the war. When asked why he didn't serve in the army, said the draft board turned him down account of Physical disability. His brother served in the navy during the war and made several trips conveying Troopships.

Is not interested in politics but thinks if Mr. Roosevelt would adopt some of Mussolini's ideas, things might be better in this country.

Hopes things will continue to get better so that the government can stop spending so much money on ~~sepa~~ and other forms of relief.

Hopes the depression will be over by the time his children are old enough to work so they can support themselves decently. When I pointed out they were pretty young & had a long time to go before that time arrived, remarked, 'well, time passes pretty quick these days.'





March-1935

Italian.

~~235~~ d 235

This party was born in Oakland in 1904. His father was born in New York, also his mother. They came to California in 1900. The father was a Plasterer by trade and made a very good living, particularly after the fire of 1906. He bought property in Oakland and built houses on it. In 1926 the father sold all his property and bought a small farm in Sonoma County & went there to live. The old man lost quite a bit of his money in Bank of Italy. He is still in Sonoma County.

There were five children in the family, two older boys & two younger girls. The oldest boy was killed in France, and the second son died during the Flu epidemic in 1918. The two girls are married one to a farmer near Watsonville, the other to a driver of a transport tank truck running between Berkeley and Oakland. She lives in Berkeley.

The person interviewed works at the Ford Plant in Richmond. Has been married five years, has two children. Is trying to save enough to buy a little home for his family. Is finding it pretty hard under present conditions. Would like to see more people working, with less machinery. Too much machinery to save labor puts too many men out of work.

Is very much interested in the coming city of



Oakland election. Thinks a change of City administration would help Oakland and attract a lot of factories here. That would put a lot of people to work.

When asked about church & religion, said his wife took care of enough of that for the whole family.

Asked him what he thought of the present government in Italy. He reminded me he was born in the U.S. and what the government of Italy did was their business, not his. This country & government was is good enough for him.

His wife is of Sicilian extraction, both her parents being born in Sicily.





Meyer Lustin.

J 236

Mr. R. came from Italy in 1926. In Italy he had a small farm where he his wife and his three children lived. He came here because his relatives advised him to come, besides he was not making a good living and he thought that in America is easy to succeed.

Upon arrival in Berkeley, he began to work for his brother-in-law who operated at that time a wholesale fruit market. His oldest son at that time sixteen ~~too~~ worked in that fruit market too. Both together they were making a living, however in about 1928 he had to quit the job because his brother-in-law expected him to work much more than it was physically possible for him. His son however remained to work there, and in 1932 when his brother-in-law sold the business his son got a share in it.

When he quit his job in the fruit market he began to work in a flower shop in Berkeley. He had a fairly good idea about flowers because <sup>while</sup> in Italy he raised flowers for a short time.

During the beginning of the depression he was discharged, because the proprietor of the flower shop was unable to pay him. He tried to get employment was unable to get anything in the city. He began to





work on farms but his wife and his younger two children did not ~~want~~ to move out to live on a farm. In 1932 he bought a small flower stand in Berkeley, in the beginning he had to work very hard to build up the business. Now however he lives near by to his business and with the aid of his wife and children he is making a very good living.

About ~~America~~ he thinks a lot about America. In Italy he said he worked much harder than here and he never expected to have any more than a meager living. Here however he worked hard but succeeded in getting some thing.



Mr. H was born in Turkey. In about 1905 at the age of 20 he left Turkey and went together with another man to New York. That man travelled a few times previously between New York and Turkey as he was selling Turkish products in New York. In about 1907 Mr. H. established a permanent ~~sells~~ office in New York and that man was sending him the merchandise from Turkey. He was very successful in the business ~~for~~ about 1910 when that man died and he closed his New York store.

At that time he began with another partner to export and import merchandise from Hawaii. In 1922 he married and decided to open a store of imported merchandise in San Francisco, where he has been living at that time. In this business venture he lost almost all of his money.

His wife advised him <sup>at</sup> that time not to start with exporting business and insisted that he should do something stable. His wife succeeded to take him in to buy a lunch room in Berkeley, in the beginning of course she was working there more than he, as he did not know anything ~~about~~ about that kind of work. Now however he manages his lunch room himself. He





still hopes that some day he will succeed to  
do something else again. Now he works from six in  
the morning till 8 at night with the exception of  
a few hours during the ~~the~~ afternoon when his  
wife relieves him. He has his lunch room open seven  
days a week.





1237

30

3/11/30

Ana

I was born in Naples Italy on the  
 5th day June 1870. I was among children  
 living in Italy. However I made up my  
 mind to leave Italy and come to the  
 United States. I was told that I would  
 better my self by going to America than  
 much better in the United States. When in  
 my native country, I left Italy at the  
 20-year of age, and came to America where  
 I have made the United States my home  
 for the past 14-years. My reason for leaving  
 my native country was to better my self and  
 condition, which I have done, so, and I am  
 more than grateful to the United States for  
 same. I hope I can be able to  
 return to my native country. My relation to the  
 depression will say I have not very good  
 all through same, my profession here  
 the United States is the Garbage business.





Station <sup>typed</sup>

Sociological d240 analy

C. P. W. W. W. W.

C. P. proposed of an Italian restaurant, or unrolled in my experience for two things: one, is that he has heard in Rhodesia, South Africa; the other, that he has words of praise for Mussolini.

We were born in Turkey, Turkey about the year 1884. His father was, according to C. P. a contingent, perhaps this means that he was moving a trade agent or perhaps a contingent house, for someone that appeared.

Shortly before the Boer war the father went to South Africa to work on railways construction. He was his wife and one daughter at home, he took the boy, C. P., with him. C. P. came to his house about the year 1898, with him. C. P. came to his house and worked with his father on the railway. Before long the Boer war broke out and the English military authorities gave C. P. and his father the chance of other military work. The British or of other work of the country. He and his father were returned to Italy.

After peace was arranged, the father returned to Rhodesia, as the wage scale was very high at that time, according to Rhodesian standards. C. P. did not return because he did not like the heat, he says. Rhodesia is very pleasant in climate but that it takes several years to get used to the heat in Rhodesia. C. P. by the way is able to say certain things in the Kaffir language.

After the father returned to Rhodesia he became a time-keeper or accountant in Rhodesia. He was a man standing by, respecting the Rhodesian dignity and credit with so many other people.





(Stalin, C.B.)

(2)

Memorandum

discovered. While at this work one day, an explosion caused a rock to land on his head, killing him.

Following his father's death, C.B. wandered here and there doing various jobs: sailor, laborer, stevedore, etc. He was in Geneva, Paris, and even as far as ~~Tripoli~~ Tunis and Algiers.

Finally, tired of some of the working weather in California, he decided to see what he could do in the country. Landing in New York, he came directly to New Orleans. This was in 1911.

He has been here since that time, mostly in the restaurant business, with interests in bootlegging during prohibition. Working as waiter, etc., saving his money, he gradually accumulated enough to buy out a small Italian restaurant, which he now operates.

During the course of my conversation with him, I said, "I saw in the papers recently that Mussolini is trying to make the Italians stop eating spaghetti and to eat rice and bread instead. He thinks spaghetti makes the Italians dirty. What do you think about that?"

His reply, ~~paraphrased~~ <sup>paraphrased</sup>, was that Mussolini was a northern Italian. The northerners didn't eat spaghetti anyway. They ate rice, grown in the flat lands of the Po valley; the southerners ate "pasta", corn meal. The northerners called the southerners "spaghetti's" in derision. Another thing, Mussolini wanted something to export to get sufficient foreign exchange to cover his necessary imports. Wheat was the export item.





moderately pushed on by Mussolini. To provide a large quantity available for export, he was trying to cut down the Italian consumption of pasta made from wheat. Moreover, his big reclamation project of the marshes south of Rome had the same purpose. Formerly, these marshes belonged to Italian farmers and other nobility, and were used by them as hunting preserves. Mussolini wanted these wildlands reclaimed and made it a great wheat area. Within a few years, Italy will beat Russia as a wheat-exporter.

I said, "Why is it that a few years ago every Italian I met had only curses for Mussolini, while now it is not unusual to hear favorable comments on him?"

Again paraphrasing, his answer was that the Italians were beginning to enjoy being treated with a little more respect than formerly. "You know how it was before, Dago, Dago. What good was Italy then?" Now we have got the fastest airplanes in the world. Have you got any in America that come as fast? No! And here the fastest motor boats. Now the Italian ~~boats~~ <sup>steamers</sup> can come from Italy to America in three (3!) days instead of two weeks like before. Everybody has a job and making good wages in Italy now. My friends who have been back home tell me that the factories are all working three shifts a day."

I mentioned the fact that I had been reading a book by the son of Bulanda, former Foreign Affairs chief,





describing life in the political circles previous to the  
 life in Ireland. C.B. also was that the Orland's were  
 part of the old monarchical and aristocratic set-up.  
 They could never be reconciled to the new order. In fact,  
 the Crown Prince, Humbert, had challenged Mussolini  
 to a duel on one occasion and had wounded him in  
 the arm with his rapier, owing to the fact that when  
 the King had remonstrated with Mussolini over some-  
 thing he had done, Mussolini had sent the King a  
 large silk handkerchief; the implication being that  
 the King should keep his nose in the handkerchief  
 and not in Mussolini's business. The duel followed.

I said I had been wondering since I set eyes on  
 just what measures Mussolini took to remove the  
 engagement between the Abyssinian prince and  
 the Japanese girl to be put off. C.B. said that  
 the Abyssinian was just like Stalin, that is, any way, the  
 King there did what the Stalin told him to. May be  
 the Japanese were sore about it and were doing the  
 present trouble. "The Taps are smooth. They are all  
 in little by little and before you know it they got  
 you by the neck. I am like in this country, you  
 Americans are going to have trouble, because you are  
 too soft with the Taps. America is too easy about  
 everything now days. You are not like you used to  
 be. You don't care any thing about the law, you  
 let your wives and daughters run around all night.





(Stalin. C B.)

(5)

Washington

and you don't say anything against it. The 5 of us  
are going to grab part of the United States and Russia  
is going to grab Alaska".

I smiled and remarked that he had read that in  
the paper a couple of days ago. He shrugged, but  
insisted that was what would happen.

L

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L





Born in Volturno, Italy, 1874 Italy

53 yrs ago. He attended only two years in school. He has been a farmer, he worked with him until he came to this country at the age of twenty. He first worked in Pennsylvania as a laborer and remained there three years.

He then came to California working in lumber yards and for Contract Contractors. For the past twenty years he has owned and operated a grocery store.

Since 1924 his business has depreciated to some extent.

He is the father of four children most of them in High School. He is a good mechanic and likes music.

He feels this country is a better opportunity than his own.



Mexican

July 2245

Born in Chihuahua Mexico 1890  
ago. At the age of 5 his family went  
to Texas. He attended primary school  
a few years. Since however, he has  
worked in restaurants and cafes. At  
present he is working in a small cafe.  
He is unmarried.

His father was a laborer.

He believes the conditions of the  
nation of portugetes than Mexico.

He has neither mechanical or  
musical instructions.

He has only some part time  
since 1924.





Case R. M.

278

R. M. was born in Torino, in 1895, of poor native farmers. Both of his parents died of pneumonia before he was twelve years old when he was taken in the care of his uncle - his father's brother. His uncle, who was a blacksmith, decided to come to America; and crossed the sea with young R. M. when the latter was fifteen years old. They came to Youngstown, Ohio where R. M.'s uncle worked in a steel mill. Here his uncle married.

~~R. M.~~ never attended an American day-school. He was hired by the same mill employing his uncle. His first jobs were very light - sweeping shop floors, fixing supplies etc. Later he was put on heavier jobs. And after three years became a fireman at a Japanese mill at Warfield. During these years he had gone to evening English classes where he acquired some understanding of the mechanics of our language. (He now speaks perfect, fluent English.)

After several years working at Warfield and Warfield (mill town in Northwestern Ohio) he came in 1931 - after many layoffs due to the decreased business of the construction materials firms - to Santa Barbara, California. A very close friend whom he had worked with in Youngstown & who had come with him to Warfield was now working in the S.B. roundhouse. His friend's assurance that he could secure him employment there proved useless, however, & after two months of idleness he finally went to work as a laborer in a gardening crew consisting mainly of Mexicans.

R. M. came to Oakland in June, 1933 and has had almost continuous and increasing





more profitable gardening work.

He is married to an Italian woman whom he  
met in Santa Barbara, and has one child, a two-year  
old girl.



Casey M. V.

249 Amity

Mr. V. was born in Los Angeles in 1912, the son of Italian parents. His father and mother had been married in Torino; had come to America in 1909. In Torino his father had been a baker. He had belonged to a bakers' union there and was an enthusiastic trade-unionist and a socialist. He had left Italy in order to escape the poverty and lack of opportunity of his life there. To reach, Mr. V.'s father had relatives in America - an uncle [and three uncles] - whom he joined at Los Angeles.

When Mr. V. was twelve his family moved to Comona, California where he completed his education, graduating from high school. He was a "recommended" student (upper 1/2 rd.) and a star football player.

His father, who had been a factory worker in Los Angeles (Maywood) came to Comona to work an orange grove on "share". He had felt through immediately but he remained in Comona - finding a job at a citrus shipping company. Eventually he became, & remains, a foreman there at small wages + very irregularly employed as the plant is frequently shut down in slack seasons. During these slack seasons he often picks up odd jobs in the vicinity.

Mr. V. came to B.O., after a year working in a Comona share store. His employer, before long, allowed him to "transfer" here in





San Francisco. Two years ago he was transferred to Berkeley where he is working at present at a salary of \$25.00. He first came to San Francisco with the aim of hiring out on a trans-Pacific steamer. He had always possessed an insatiable desire for travel but had never been able to satisfy this urge. In the spring of 1904 he married an American girl, a former student at the University of California who continues to attend school.





~~Italian~~  
1951  
~~Analy~~  
Case R. L.

R. L. was born in San Francisco in 1906, the son of Italian parents. His mother was a native of Milan, his father of Sorriso. They had met and married in New York City where his father was a waiter in a hotel restaurant. At that time his father had worked in a winery establishment.

R. L.'s father worked as a waiter in later years at Solari's, until his death in 1932. R. L.'s mother had died in 1928.

R. L. went through school, graduating from Lowell High in 1928. He then went two years to St. Mary's where he unsuccessfully tried to make the football team. He wrote that football was his only interest in college.

He arrived after leaving college in the summer of 1929 and lived with his father. He worked as a truck driver for the Waltons' family.

He lost his job in December, 1932 and in the spring of 1933 moved to Berkeley, to live with his wife's folks. Throughout the last year he has been on JERA relief.



Italian

4251

Analy

Case L. S.

L. S. is a twenty-two year old girl, American-born, of Neapolitan parents. Her parents were married before they came to U.S. and had had one other child, a son, in Italy. L. S. was born in Chicago. Here her father, who had been an olive farmer in Italy, worked as a janitor.

L. S. did not complete high school, dropping out to go to work at the end of her sophomore year. Her first job was that of waitress in a soft drink parlor. Later she worked as salesgirl in a large department store.

Her father died of pneumonia in the summer of 1935. Her mother decided to come to San Francisco to live with her oldest son who was running a profitable newsstand. L. S. came with her mother.

At present she lives alone in Oakland - her mother in S.F. She could not get work in S.F. but finally got a job as clerk in a downtown Oakland notion store.

She makes \$10 per week. She is attending evening high school, taking a course in metal work.

She displayed several of her finished products which are really artistic and evidence an indubitable talent.





Italian

# 252

Sanchez

Case A. G.

A. G. was born in Venetia, the son of poor country folk, in 1913. He was brought to America in 1921 by his father. His mother had died two years before. He and his father and himself were two older sisters (of 4. 5.)

They came to San Jose where A. G.'s father's married sister had lived for many years. His father found various sorts of work as an agricultural laborer; mainly that of pruning fruit trees.

A. G. went to school in San Jose, finally graduating from high school in 1931. After graduation he came to San Francisco where he lived with one of his older sisters who was married to a San Francisco barber.

He decided to go to barber college and was able to do so by working part-time delivering for a small furniture store. After he finished barber school he found a position in a shop and continued working for the furniture store at \$4 per week.

Last July he got a temporary job as a ship worker in an Oakland shop. This only lasted until September. Since that time he has been out of work most of the time. However,





4)  
This February he got a regular full time job  
as a bottle-washer at the Bell-Brack dairy.  
Here he receives \$1.50 per week.

He is engaged to be married; and looks  
forward to getting a bookbinding job so that  
he may marry and make a home for himself.

He plays the violin, but not with  
any considerable talent. (According to his admirers.)

11

D. Walters

Italian

Anal 1361

March 1935

Came to U.S. in 1895, with his parents, at age of 10 years. There were two other children - age 8 and five years. The father had been a blacksmith in Italy, and also did other odd jobs.

Shortly after their arrival in N.Y. the father got work in Brooklyn N.Y. ~~where~~ driving a team of horses for a wholesale butcher. The children were sent to school. Father was naturalized in 1903.

After about eight years driving truck, he started a small butcher shop, and took his oldest son in to help him. Later on the second son came to work in the shop.

On his twenty first birthday the oldest son was married to a girl of Irish parentage and two years later they came to San Francisco, where he followed his trade. He stayed in S.F. for about a year, and returned East on account of his father's illness, and took over the shop with his brother. His father died about six months after his return to N.Y. The business was sold and after all their affairs were wound up, returned to S.F.

The youngest brother is married has two children attending school in San Francisco. He married an Italian girl. He is employed at his trade in a small shop in the Mission Dist. in S.F.

The party interviewed is employed in a shop in East Oakland. He also has two children, both girls of school age.

The mother passed away about four years ago





her one disappointment was that she was unable to visit her birthplace before she died.

Does not remember much of his childhood days in Italy. They went to school once in a while mostly during the fall & winter months. Has no desire to live in Italy or any part of Europe for that matter. Things there are too unsettled. Likes California better than the East. Living conditions are better here than the East.

The depression has affected his earnings, but as long as he has a job and can keep his family in food & clothing he won't worry.

Is not interested in politics. Too much graft in politics. They make too many promises before election and never keep any of them.

He wonders what will happen if SGRa stops employing all those people. Thinks it's a big help, but is not what the people want.





Italian

July 1932

March 1935

Parents were born in Genoa, Italy. The father's family had been farmers in the same 'villa' for two generations before him. Two children of the family were born in Italy and three were born in New York. They came to this country, steerage, in 1889. Father & mother are still living in New York as are the two oldest sons and two daughters.

Party interviewed came to California in 1922 and worked for the street car company till 1930 - then went back to New York, and stayed there for a year & a half then came back to California, and got a job driving a milk truck from Modesto to Oakland. Is not married.

Both sisters are married to American born Italians who are employed in N.Y. as guards in the subway.

The parents left Italy because of the poor living conditions and hard work and no chance to make any money. Also there seemed no opportunity for the children. On their arrival in N.Y. they stayed with relations of his wife until he secured employment. His first job as laborer was with a street paving gang, repairing holes in the streets. Later on he secured a sub contract on the construction of the subway.

The two oldest sons were steel workers, their first jobs in that line being work on the Williamsburg bridge. They had intended coming to S.F. to work on the Bay Bridges but were dissuaded by the brother here.

The party interviewed prefers California to the East. Does not care for snow & cold winters and the crowded living conditions. Is saving his money



so as he can go back East to visit his parents this year. They are getting pretty old now & would like to see them again before they die.

Is rather interested in the possibilities of war in Europe, and wonders how the various dictators will conduct it.

Is not interested in the political situation national or local. Is kept pretty busy hauling milk.

He hopes Mr Roosevelt can show some real progress before next election otherwise he thinks Huey Long might decide to run & get the job.

Does not intend to get married. Too confusing. He likes to do as he pleases.





Born in China 50 years ago, at the age  
of five, his parents came to New York.  
He had eight years schooling. His first  
work was learning a trade in an apparel  
factory. In 1862 he came to California  
and started in a small business. He later  
purchased a grocery store, then he went  
into the second hand furniture business.  
At present he has retired from active  
business, although he sometimes finds  
temporary work.

He has some musical ability  
as he learned to play a mandolin.  
He has shown no mechanical ability.

His father was a farmer but had little  
opportunity for culture. No mechanical  
ability.

He is the father of seven children.  
His family came to America to better  
their chances.

His language condition has not  
changed within the last 20 years.





Luigi - Italian

This man was born on a small farm about 30 miles from Rome in 1851. He was the third son in a family of five children. He was raised on his parents' farm working with them as a boy and as he grew older, doing most of the work. His early life was more uneventful and in 1885, at the age of thirty-four, he had managed to save enough to pay his boat fare to the United States. Leaving the care of the farm to a younger brother he left for the United States and after landing in New York, he proceeded directly to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where there lived a cousin of his who had informed him that he could get him a job as a coal miner.

He got the job and worked there for fourteen years steadily. In 1899 - he was injured in a mining disaster and became unfit for further hard labor. He received five hundred dollars as workmen's compensation for the injury which left him with a permanent limp.

He decided to come out to the west coast and accordingly came out to Oakland where he bought an interest in a restaurant which was owned by a former miner and friend of his.



He has been married in 1923 to an American girl of Italian background, and when he came to Ireland he brought his wife and two children with him. He has earned a fair income from his restaurant throughout the depression and has managed to save enough to purchase a car and a small home in Dublin.

His elder child is now attending high school while the younger is in grammar school.

He prefers this country to Italy, and is glad he left Italy because he did not expect to live as a farmer. He believes that the American standard of living today is better than that of Italy as it was when he left it.

He has weathered the depression nicely and says that business has improved somewhat for him during the past year.

He favors governmental relief for the unemployed and the poor, and points out how beneficial to him the workmen's compensation law in Pennsylvania was.



## Subject - Italian

This man was born in a poor section of Rome and was one of a family of seven children. His early childhood was spent in squalid, dirty surroundings. When he was eleven years old his father <sup>and mother</sup> took him and his three younger brothers and sisters with them to America traveling steerage on a boat which he says pitched constantly during a long and miserable voyage.

They settled in New York City and the boy went to work selling papers. He spoke no English but managed to pick up a ~~few~~ somewhat workable vocabulary among other things - by his association with other immigrants and customers.

When he was thirteen years old he was forced by the juvenile authorities to start public school. He found school life not to his liking and after two years of it ran away from home and quit school and resumed his vocation of selling newspapers.

After some months of this he seems to have been seized by a wanderlust. At any rate he started to traveling freight trains and after some months of this found himself in San Francisco. The city pleased him and he again got a job selling newspapers. He continued on at this



work and at the age of eighteen met and married an American girl of Italian parentage.

Under her guidance and urging he began to take his work seriously and in the next year was rewarded by being given a district on the newspaper for which he worked, distributing newspapers to newsboys and newsstands.

He has continued at this work ever since, and now at the age of thirty four has a large district and earns a salary of \$55 per week. He attended night school and received his naturalization papers in 1932 and has been a regular voter since.

He has three small children whom he intends shall have a thorough education. He is intensely interested in local and national politics and has very definite ideas thereof, some rather idiosyncratic.

He is an enthusiastic supporter of President Roosevelt and believes wholeheartedly in allowing himself rein in implementing ~~the~~ plans.

He encountered much racial prejudice during his youth and early manhood, especially until he had gained a fair knowledge and command of the English language, and recounts details of many wrongs which were occasioned by the looking at him and such derisive epithets as "Dago



and "N. of". However, ~~he~~ he is now quite Americanized, and a respected and well liked member of his newspaper, and the same terms are often hurled at him, it is only in jest or affection that he is so termed.

Although he was quite young when he left Italy, he is certain that the move was a sound one, and has no desire to return to the country of his birth.

He says that newspaper circulation fell off tremendously during 1931, 2, and 3, but says that during the past year circulation and advertising have been steadily increasing for his newspaper, and he has had a salary raise during the past half year.

He is convinced that he has progressed further than he could have had he remained in Italy, and as regards living conditions, he states that even his life in an upstairs tenement in New York City was a little better in regard to sanitation facilities and general living conditions than he in his previous home in Rome, and he asserts definitely that from what he has heard the standard of living in this country is much higher generally than in Italy.





Richard Wagner L

Old Joe is an Italian. He is 60 yrs. old and has been in this country for the past 15 years.

In Italy, Joe was a wage laborer. For some time before and during the World War he worked as a brakeman on a rail road there. He also worked in a bakery for a while. He was married and had a family of 4 ~~children~~ children. One of his children, a boy, was killed during the War while serving as a soldier in the Italian Army. The other 3 are grown up and married. They are all living in Italy.

Joe never told me the reason that caused him to leave Italy and come to this country, but he did tell me that that reason was one that prevented him from ever going back.

Joe left Italy alone and came directly to Frisco by way of the Panama Canal.





He found work in an Italian bakery in Frisco, but not as ~~a~~ a baker. He was sort of an all around handy man, doing whatever trucking had to be done and working as an assistant. After he was over here for 5 years he sent for his wife and she came to live with him. The 3 children were all grown and none of them came with her.

Joe worked at this bakery for 9 or 9 years. He lost his job when the bakery changed owners.

For 3 or 4 years after he lost his job at the bakery Joe was not able to find much work. It was during the first few years of the crisis and no body was <sup>anxious</sup> ~~anxious~~ to hire a ~~that~~ small stoop shouldard Italian of 55 who must have looked to be 60

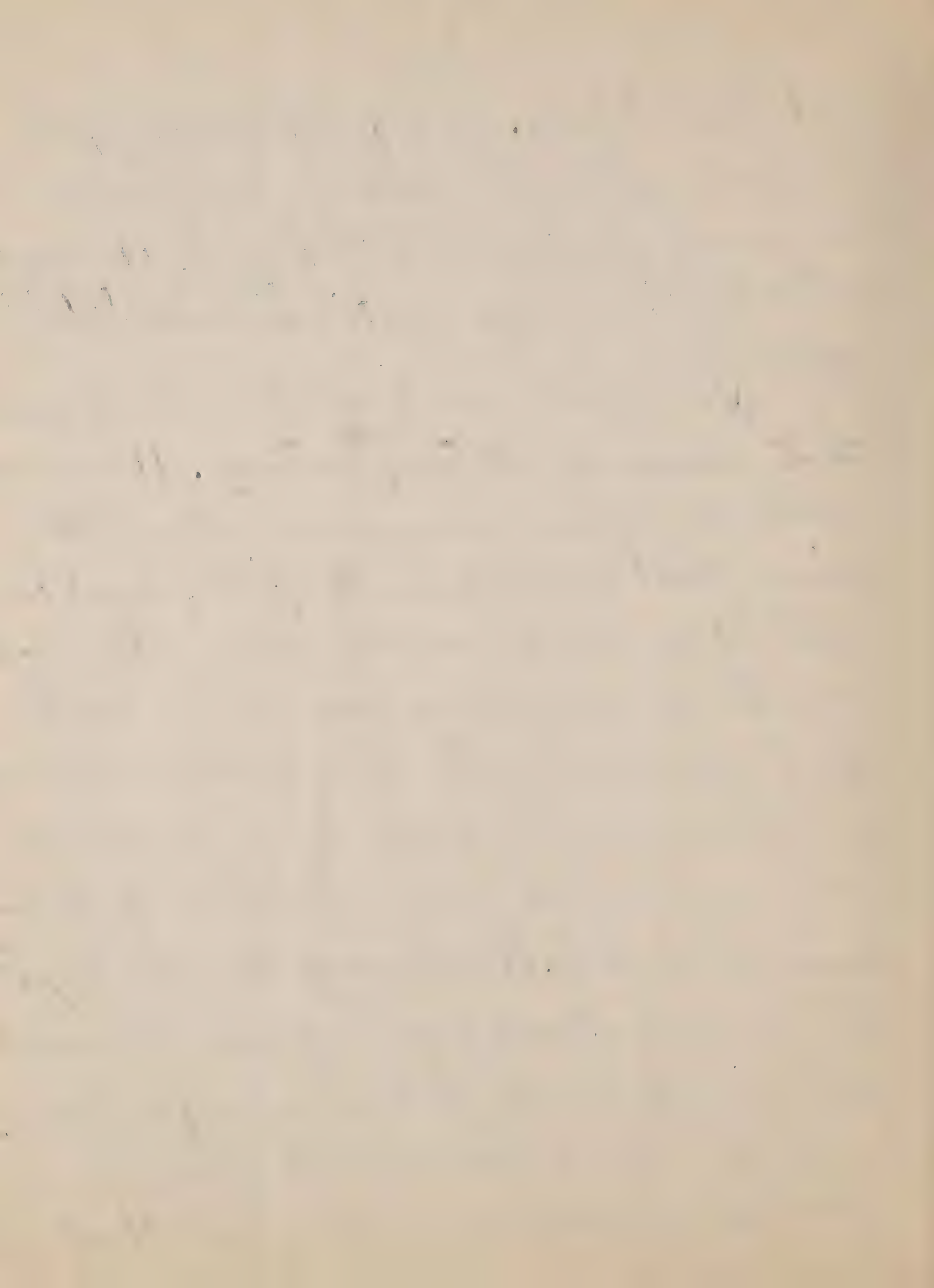




at that time. The first steady job he got after the bakery job was in a candy factory in Oakland. He worked steady there up until ~~a month~~ <sup>the last of Dec.</sup> ago.

Joe got most of the dirty work that came up at the <sup>candy</sup> factory. He worked like a horse every minute of the time that he was on the job, and he did it for less money than the rest of the men doing similar work got. The owner of the factory recognized in Joe a man who was desperate for a job and who would cling to any kind of a job. Realizing this he kept Joe in constant fear of his job and got him to work like a dog for 3 years.

Joe was so afraid of his job and so conscious of the fact that he





was getting fairly old, that at times he used to bribe the young fellow who was working with him to help him do his work so that he would be sure of doing enough to get his job. He would do this by promising the fellow a quart of wine - over in a while if he would do some certain little job for him.

When the question of a strike came up at the factory Joe was between the devil and the deep blue sea. He wanted to stick with the men but he also hoped that he had a life time job at the factory and was scared stiff of losing it. The walk out was billed right at the start, but if it had gone over right I believe that Joe would ~~have~~ have struck job or no job.





Joe got laid off the first of this year. He told me he ~~thought~~ maybe he could get back on if business picked up. I am sure that he never will.

The boss of the candy co. got three yrs. hard work out of him as extra cheap wages, and now when Joe is broken down to the extent that he can ~~not~~ no longer cheat a horse out of a job he has no further use for him. I think Joe also realizes that he stands a pretty slim chance of ever getting back as he has ~~not~~ has applied for even work.

Joe is very simple minded. He does not think of any thing outside of things such as how he is going to make a living and of how his wife is going to turn out. He does not read English and neither does he get any Italian newspapers or other publications. He does have a phonograph in his house





with some very good <sup>be</sup> Italian records  
including ~~some~~ of Caruso. He has  
no interest or understanding of any  
thing of a political or economic nature,  
in fact of nothing that does not personally  
affect him. The only recreation he has  
outside of putting around his place &  
fooling with his wine is talking with  
other Italian neighbors.

I have never seen his wife.

He and his wife live in a 2 room  
cottage built in the back yard of another  
house. The cottage is very small but is  
nicely kept up both inside and out. The  
space in the back yard not occupied  
by the cottage is neatly divided into  
2 garden plots, one for flowers & the other  
for vegetables.

The kitchen of the house is  
sort of a combined kitchen and





17-  
living room, with a rocking chair  
and the phonograph. The other room  
is the bedroom.

Joe rents the ~~place~~ cottage  
but works most of the rent out by  
fixing up around the place.

I have an idea that Joe has  
a little money saved up.

Richard Wagner  
No 4 - 18 km



W. L. Garrison Report #6 - 6 Dec d 14

There have been times for some time past  
an Italian who moved from Italy in the  
past few years but I can find no one. The  
Italian people must be quite well satisfied  
with living conditions in the country and  
don't care to emigrate.

Tom is a young Italian living in  
old. He left Italy in 1924 and studied in  
Alameda where he had a brother and a sister.

His father was a farmer in Tuscany. Tom  
was doing as well as the other farmers  
in his vicinity. Like most of his family he  
had a good size family, mostly girls. Tom  
the help of his father and returned in 1924.

Tom went to the United States in 1924  
and stayed in the United States for  
about one year. At the end of the year  
he returned to Italy with his family.  
Tom speaks but very little English.





experience of war.

It is a fact that the government is doing  
everything possible and within its power  
to commission more men and is doing  
as well as can be expected under the circumstances.  
The vegetable garden has been the only  
of the depression. Consumption of vegetables was  
greatly reduced and prices low. I know of no  
man which is behind with the wages of  
the laborers, in fact, some of them will not even  
get paid, and we are, and have not received  
full payment of their wages, yet.

They like to get paid, want to  
and are willing to do so. The government  
has not a dollar and cannot pay them  
because of having no one although as time passes  
and the government pays of our debts, we may  
soon find that we are able to pay them and  
become more comfortable.

228 ~~44~~

Lease #2 - Jan'y 1935.

Born on small farm near Genoa in 1879 - the family consisting of five children - four boys and 1 girl. They were the third generation of the family to be born there. All the children, as soon as they were able to, had work to perform on the farm, attending school when there was no large amount of work to do.

In 1895, after the oldest brother had served his time in the army, left Italy with the two youngest brothers and came to this country, the land of 'opportunity', where the oldest brother secured work as a laborer. The two younger boys secured jobs in neighborhood stores.

In 1898 the oldest brother married, in N.Y. and in 1900 came to California, got a job on Artichoke farm south of Salina until 1910, when he leased a place of his own, taking the two younger brothers with him to work it. Subsequently they purchased this land and held it till 1925 when they sold it and the oldest boy returned to Italy for a visit with his wife & two children, returning to California the same year.

The old family home is still in possession of the second son who remained in Italy with the parents, who have since died.

The two younger brothers are in the produce



The subject of this investigation was an Italian man about 43 years old. He was born in a small town in northern Italy. His parents were both Italian. He is the eldest of five children - 3 boys. He had very little schooling and at the age of fourteen he was working on his father's business in Oakland.

All three boys are naturalized citizens of this country, and now that the parents are dead have no desire to return to Italy. When they think of what they had to put up with as youngsters in Italy, they remark, 'Not for us'.

Their mainstay in food was the usual 'polenta' a sort of bread made of corn meal similar to the corn pone of the negroes in our south. Meat was a special treat, and on rare occasions when opportunity presented, a fishing trip and fresh fish.

The family had two cows and were considered very well off.

Two sons in the army as well as the father's service, the father considered was enough to satisfy the government, hence his willingness to permit the two youngest sons to leave before they were of military age.

Both the younger sons are married & have small families. The eldest son is employed with his father & uncle.

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boys. He had very little schooling and at the  
age of fourteen he was working on his father's  
farm where they raised truck vegetables for  
market. His work continued until he was  
about 24 yrs. old. At that time he was  
conscripted into the army and all through the  
war he remained a soldier, seeing action on  
the front in two major battles. After the war  
he was discharged and received enough money to  
buy himself a steamship ticket to the U.S.  
He brought one of his younger brothers with him.  
They arrived in New York in the winter of nineteen  
eighteen. The young brother got a job as a  
waiter in an Italian restaurant. But as rapid  
having no trade was unable to find employment.  
He lived in a room on the lower East side.  
The subject spent most of the winter months walking  
the streets looking for work, and finally spent





The cold weather, the strange city, the inability to speak the language were hardships that made them long to be back in Italy. To this end they tried to save enough money for passage, but it was impossible to do this on the small wages of the younger brother. Along in the spring the older brother got a job shoveling coal from boats in the east river. The work was very hard and the pay was small. But they slowly began to accumulate enough money to take a trip to Calif. When they had been told the climate was better and where there were opportunities to get agricultural work. Especially in the Imperial Valley they had heard high wages were paid for truck gardeners. They bought tickets straight to Bombay, and for about two years they worked in many places in the valley following the crops. At times they made good wages and were saving as much as possible with the intention of going into business for themselves. In 1923 they moved to Los Angeles where they looked for a location for a small restaurant, but





that time the available locations were far above  
their financial position. But while in L.A. they  
met many Italians who had been in other parts  
of the state, who secured them. But in L.A.  
was a better place to go into business. So they  
came north and settled on north beach in the  
city and for several years they were successful  
on Montgomery street. The business was finally  
closed by the authorities because they were making  
unusually large profits. When they had paid  
several fines and spent many months unemployed  
they found themselves broke. They felt that they  
were being watched by the S.F. police, so they  
moved to Oakland where they are still living.  
They are odd jobs mostly in restaurants where they  
have both worked as cooks, waiters, dish washers, and  
bar boys. It proved the going better as working  
as a beer tender on an Oakland saloon. As  
soon one is unemployed. Further have married. They  
said they would not like to go back to California  
the news from there is very unfavorable.



Italy

292

7/8/35

Analy

I was born in San-Marten Italy the 10<sup>th</sup>  
day of March 1895, and left Italy for the  
United-States when I was 16 years of age  
and, have remained here ever since. As to  
the fact that the United-States was plenty  
good enough for me. I also taken out my  
Citizen-ship papers the 2<sup>nd</sup> <sup>day</sup> after my arrival  
to the United-States. My father was a teacher  
in Italy and for my-self will say, I learned  
the Butcher business shortly after my arrival  
in the United-States, of which I am still  
working at same. My attitude toward my  
native Country will say I have no desire to ever  
return, as the United-States is more than  
satisfactory to me. My relation to depression.  
will say I have did very good all through same  
and, can frankly say things have been very  
satisfactory all around, and, every way for me.





Italian.

2109

Both parents born in Italy. Father born in 1866. After serving his time in the Army, he went to work with his uncle, who was a boat builder. About a year after he married and six months after he brought his bride to this country.

He secured work in a small ship building plant in Brooklyn N.Y. where he worked until 1910. Three children were born in New York, two boys and 1 girl. They started school in Brooklyn and completed their schooling in San Francisco.

In 1910 the family moved to San Francisco where the father again entered the employ of a boat builder near Fishermans wharf where he worked until 1925 when he decided to retire. He is a naturalized citizen, has no desire to return to Italy. Likes it in California, especially in Sonoma County.

Both sons & daughter have married and are raising families who are being educated in San Francisco.

The two boys with their sisters husband & his cousin own one of the small fishing boats at the 'wharf'. They make a fair living.

They do not seem very interested in Politics here, all they ask is to be let alone to make a living for their families. The depression has affected their earnings somewhat, but feel things are getting better.

They do not want their children to be fishermen but prefer they go into some other business.





## Subject - Italian

This man was born in Florence, Italy. His father, a clerk in a store, was a man of some slight education, but could not afford to send his children to school as his wages were insufficient, and he had six children. This man was the eldest son and at the age of twelve had begun to attempt to add to the family income.

At the age of thirteen he became an apprentice to a shoemaker, but was dissatisfied with the trade, and at the age of seventeen left Italy and came to the United States.

Blessed with a powerful physique, and appearing to be older than he actually was, he was able to secure a job as a laborer with a building company in New York City. He stayed with this job for five years and in 1917, at the age of twenty one, he was foreman of a small crew.

When the United States entered the war he enlisted and was sent overseas where he fought as a private. He received no injuries during the war, but when he returned to the United States, he was unable to secure his old job and was forced to start in again as a common laborer. After about a year he again became unsatisfied, and decided to go to California, as he had heard many glowing stories about the numerous opportunities there. Accordingly, in the



summer of 1920 he came to California, and settled in Oakland where he secured a job again with a construction company. He stayed on this job, and in 1924 was made a foreman of a building gang, and immediately proceeded to marry an American born girl of Italian ancestry. He proceeded to raise a family and in 1930 had a small home of his own and four small children.

In 1930 the company for which he had been working failed, and he lost his job. He was unable to find another job and though he had accumulated a small sum of money, his savings were exhausted and in March 1931 he ~~was~~ was forced to appeal to local charities, and lived off the bounty he obtained and various odd jobs until the fall of 1931 when he secured a position as a laborer in a county park. Later he was put on the state squaring relief roll as a laborer, and has lived off this income to date.

Despite the adversity he has suffered, he prefers the United States to Italy, and is a firm believer in President Roosevelt. He believes that business will continue to improve, and is hopeful that in the future he will again find paid employment in construction work as new buildings again begin springing up. Three of his children are attending grammar school, and the other will start next fall.

Standard

Amaly

1995

1. Born in Italy 5 years ago. His father was the owner of a small farm, when he worked after going to school for four years.

He came to the country when he was 16. Since coming here he has worked at various kinds of work, but has never been able to learn a trade, due to lack of his inability to learn the language. Both he and his wife speak very little English.

He appreciates good nursing, but he can no longer stand heat, or in summer.

Since 1929 he has only worked at odd times at present he works as a laborer with the P. G. & Co.

He likes his own country and feels that there is about the same condition there as here.





Born in Rome, Italy 2 years ago  
 The father was a small shopkeeper  
 After going to school about 10 years he  
 returned home until he was 18 years  
 of age. At his family had friends in  
 America his father decided to come to  
 the States.

His family came directly to California  
 and established a restaurant which the  
 son entered after his father who was  
 the sole operator.

He has acquired much of the  
 American language and was married  
 May 1929

Since the depression his business has  
 decreased, though with the advent of tourism  
 here and there his business has improved  
 a little.

He is a great lover of music and  
 plays the accordion.

In 1926 he returned to Italy and saw  
 considerable changes, but he prefers the  
 adopted country.

He has one son who is studying  
 to be a doctor.

(25)

ITALIAN

(7)

1. Born 1885; De Comi, Lombardy
2. Small farm renters; foundry worker
3. Worked in silk factory
4. Case in silk factory
5. Housewife
6. Disapproves of Mussolini and rigid class lines
7. Has strong approval of American democracy, schooling, voting, etc.
8. Well adjusted and assimilated
9. A survival is her living with a man she does not care for.
10. Married into own group; 5 children all Americanized.
11. Four
12. Not much affect since husband has got work fairly steadily.



W. To Bureau report for S. C. C. O. 1904  
ending Jan 1st 1905  
Report No. 2 -

Nick Bernardini was born in a rural  
district of Italy close to the coast  
in October 1878. The family consisted of  
father, mother, and four children.  
The father was a small farmer and  
the mother was a housewife.

The bulk of what he learned they managed  
laboring for others in their neighborhood.  
The only schooling he had was what he  
learned from his father. He did not  
teaching as there was no Public School  
as in this country.

Nick came to this country when he was  
Eighteen years old. He came in 1896  
to work on the farm.  
In those days they considered the United  
States as a land of opportunity.  
He was one of the first to come here  
to pay back the money he had borrowed  
from his father.









Richard Leonard

Mr. X. was born about twenty miles from Naples Italy in the year 1870. His parents died when he was very young. He has a brother about three years older than himself. During his boyhood he was compelled to work from early morning until late at night, helping his uncle on a ranch. He was unable to attend school as his uncle did not believe in education, always reminding him that schools were built for the wealthy children, and not for the poor.

When his brother was sixteen years of age he worked his way to America and deserted the ship in New York City and secured a position with the New York Central Railroad as a laborer working on the tracks. Naturally he wrote to his brother in Italy telling him how wonderful it was in the United States, so Mr. X. made up his mind that he was coming to this wonderful country also. So when he





7  
was twenty years of age and with the  
little money he had saved he sailed for  
America as a steerage passenger and was  
going to surprise his brother in the great  
town of New York. He had a very pleasant  
voyage getting as far as Ellis Island  
and was about to be sent back to Italy  
as his brother could not be located. He  
was held on Ellis Island for about  
two weeks. His brother was finally  
located and came to his rescue, and  
he was safe in New York City. His brother  
got him a job with the same company  
he was working for but Mr. X did not  
care for it at all. So about a year  
after he was determined to see more  
of the United States, so he came to  
California working his way from city  
to city. He arrived in San Francisco in  
the year 1892 and worked around the  
water front doing odd jobs etc. In  
1895 he married a Swiss Italian girl.  
He was not satisfied living in San



Francisco, due to him wanting to raise a family as he thought the children should be raised on a farm. Mr. X took his bride and went to Sonoma County and leased a eighty acre ranch. It had a wonderful vineyard on it, and as he always helped his uncle make wine in Italy he surely knew how to make it in California. He made such wonderful wines that a neighbor rancher introduced him to a Mr. Sebastiana who at the present time has one of the largest wineries in California and controls mostly all the Northern California grapes. Mr. Sebastiana was greatly surprised with the taste and flavor of Mr. X's wines so he offered him a position taking care of his Winery at forty dollars per month, which was a very high wage at that time. So as time went on a son was born in the year 1898. Mr. X worked at this winery until prohibition came and then he had to go back to his ranch which he owned.





4/

by this time as he and his wife saved every penny they could get there hands on. His son was given a good education and when his son left home to go to college at Berkley Mr. X sold his ranch and came to San Francisco and started a small store in North Beach. He did very well and at the present time has a very thriving business, and he claims to have plenty of cash on hand as he did not invest his money in the bank of Italy like some of his countrymen did and lose it. He has considerable property in San Francisco. He cannot read or write the English language only his name which is very poorly written.





Richard Leonard

Mr. X a native of Turin Italy was born in the year of 1864 of very high parentage in fact a son of the largest innkeeper of Turin. As he was the only son he was pampered and spoiled. Upon reaching the age of eighteen years his father informed him that it was time for him to make something of himself by learning the hotel or innkeepers business, but at this age Mr X did not have any ambitions due to him being supplied with all the necessities of life, so Mr X and his father came to a disagreement and Mr X was told to leave his home, never to return again. He went to Nice France and with about one thousand dollars in American money had a wonderful time there. While he was enjoying himself and having a good time he met a French young lady whom he married. After they were married they went to London England to seek a home. Upon arriving there the sweet



2

essents of life dwindled to the bitter  
not able to obtain employment these  
funds diminished rapidly. Night after  
night and day after day Mr X and  
his fair bride sat in Hyde Park London  
on a bench eating nothing but crusts  
of bread and whatever they could  
pick up from refuse cans etc. Mr X's  
pride was hurt but he vowed he  
would not go home to his parents.  
Mr X appealed to the Italian Council in  
London, and through him secured  
employment for his wife and himself  
with an old English family. This lasted  
for about five years and with there  
combined savings they sailed for the  
United States. Upon the voyage ~~voyage~~  
over the Atlantic a daughter was born  
and arriving in the great metropolis  
of New York City the same condition  
prevailed, a new city, a new country, no  
funds and no employment. Mr X  
finally obtained a position as dish





washer with a large restaurant in New York and through great effort and hard work learned the restaurant and also the hotel business. Mr X came to California with his daughter and a son who was about three years old and settled in Los Angeles. Mr X opened a small hotel and restaurant in North Los Angeles. He did very well and in the mean time his daughter met a Sargent of the U. S. Marine Corps whom she married and at the present time her husband holds a high position with the U. S. Government and Mr X is a proud grand father. Mr X came to San Francisco in 1912 and went directly into the hotel and restaurant business in North Beach. He became so well known in San Francisco that the St. Francis Hotel hired him as assistant chef and then he became manager of the Banquet Rooms until 1930 when he retired. His son





owns one of the largest night clubs  
in San Francisco and doing a fine  
business. Mr X has no desire to return  
to Italy as he says that San Francisco  
is his home now and intends to spend  
his remaining days here.



so - [ ] its were born on small farm near  
Genoa. were neighbors. Father was second oldest of  
four sons. The mother was oldest child in her family.  
After service in Army, the father returned to work  
on farm, married a year later, and in 1895 left  
Italy to come to America, accompanied by his wife &  
Child. They settled in Brooklyn, N.Y. securing  
employment as a laborer with the Gas Co. digging  
trenches to lay gas mains. After working for about  
ten years the family moved to California where he  
secured employment on a dairy ranch in So. Alameda  
County. He saved his money and in 1921 bought his  
own place, below the town of Alvarado which he &  
his two sons, ran until 1929, when the place was sold  
and the family came to San Leandro to live. The father  
retired and the sons established a grocery store in  
Oakland.

Both sons started their education in New York,  
and finished in California. They are both married and  
raising families.

Their parents have no desire to return to Italy.  
Practically all their near relatives are in this country  
now, those remaining in the old country have passed  
on. The changes in the government also has its  
part lessening the desire to return to Italy.

The poor educational facilities in Italy, the  
hard work for a bare existence, lack of opportunity  
for improvement in a financial way all played  
their part in making up their minds to  
migrate to this country.

On their arrival in this country, they were  
taken in hand by relatives who assisted them in





settled, and securing employment.

The big event in their lives after their arrival in the U.S. was their moving to California. The trip across the continent, & the vastness of the country, impressed them very much.

They also mention the fact that the family fared much better in California than in the East.





272 2/5/35

I was born in Piedmont Italy. My year of birth was 1898, and came to the United States of America 13-years ago, I am 36-years old, my wife is 32-years old, we also have 1 child of which is American born and 4-years of age. I lived in San Francisco for 6-years then I worked in a foundry as a molder. However I am now living in the City of Oakland - Cal. and engaged in the poultry business for the past 7-years. I have <sup>never</sup> been in any trouble in my life, or in Court of any kind. I have driven an Auto-Mobile for 7-years and have never had an accident of any kind, or any fines. My father, and Mother were both also born in Piedmont Italy. My reason for coming to the United States was to better my conditions. My profession in the U.S.A. was a molder for 6-years, and for the past 7-years the poultry business. My attitude toward the United States will say is wonderful, and for my native country will say I have no desire to return. My relation to depression will say we should make the best of everything at all times.



7/6/35

87

I was born in Genoa - North - Italy the year of 1872, and, have <sup>since</sup> been in the United States for 40 - years, my profession in Italy was Farming of which I have engaged in same while here in the United - States, which I have found Conditions far better in every - way than what they were in my native Country, therefore my attitude toward the United - States is wonderful and, also, I have no desire to ever return to my native Country again. My reason for coming to the United - States, was to better my Condition. which I have been very successful while in the United - States. for my native <sup>Country</sup> will say Conditions were very poor, and, also the prices for our products was nothing to compare with the Conditions and, prices in the United - States. my relation to depression will say, I have not done so good through all the depression.





2/5/35

273

I was born in Brasha - North - Italy on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 1888, and, came over to the United - States of America 37 years ago my profession is mining of which I was engaged in mining in Butte - Mont for 12 - years, and from there I came to Oakland Calif. which I have made my home for the past 25 - years. reason for coming to the United - States was to better conditions, and, my attitude toward the United - States will say is wonderful. I will also state that my attitude toward my native - Country is that I <sup>have</sup> no desire to ever return. my relation to depression will say we should take every - thing as it comes, and, make the best of it. Status and profession of parents were farmers. he - also stated, that the conditions of the U. S. A. were plenty good enough for him.





2/6, 35

288

I was born in Genoa - North Italy 1877  
have been in the United States 45-years  
my occupation in Italy was farming,  
reason for leaving Italy and coming to the  
United States of America, to better conditions  
my attitude toward the U.S.A. is wonderful,  
and, my attitude toward my native country  
will say conditions there do not prevail as  
they do in the United States, therefore I am  
more than pleased with the conditions in the  
U.S.A. therefore I have no desire to ever  
return to my native country. my nature  
& adjustment to America will also state  
is far superior than my native country.  
my relation to depression will say I have taken  
every-thing as it comes, and make the best of it  
which I have been very prosperous in the U.S.A.





The grandparents in this family came to America in 1881 from Sicily. They had two children. Four more were born in New York. The grandfather was employed in N. Y. as a cigar maker till 1896, then moved to Chicago, and opened up a small tobacco shop, also making his own cigars. He died in Chicago, and on his death the oldest son took over the business and ran it until the mother's death, when all the children moved to California.

The oldest son secured employment in the cigarette factory in San Francisco that manufactured Imperiale cigarettes. He worked for them until they were absorbed by the American Tobacco Co. He now has a small tobacco shop in the North Beach section.

The second son is employed as foreman in a paint factory in San Francisco. Both are married and have grand children.

The third and fourth sons were killed in the war. They were drafted and went to Camp Lewis and then overseas with the 91st Division.

The fifth child, a daughter, is married to a fisherman who has an interest in one of the boats at Fisherman's Wharf.

The sixth child, a boy, lives in Oakland, has a vegetable stand in the South St. Market and an interest in a truck garden on Bay Farm Island. He is married, about 40 years of





age, and has a family of five children, three boys & two girls.

The eldest, a boy, works with his father. The second child, a daughter is attending business college. The balance of the family are still in school.

They prefer living in California to the East. Chicago & New York are so crowded and the climate is more especially the winter.





Mr. R. came from Italy in 1901, at the age of twelve. Although their first stop was in New York they arrived in San Francisco a few months later. Upon arrival in San Francisco Mr. R's father became a janitor in one of San Francisco's houses, however he lost his job following the earth quake. Soon afterwards, his father got a job in a laundry, and he, Mr. R. quit school at that time about seventeen years of age and also joined his father began to work with his father in the same laundry. He worked in that laundry for about ~~the~~ three years when he quit and married an Italian girl, a daughter of a small luncheonette proprietor. He began to work with his father-in-law in the luncheonette and in about 1912 when his father-in-law withdrew because of illness he inherited the place.

Business were good and he opened another branch. During the world war he was enlisted by but was not sent out of the country. In 1922 upon the advice of friends he sold out both of his luncheonettes and began to play in the stock market, where he lost his <sup>money</sup> ~~most~~ shortly afterwards. At that time he had three children and was penniless. He began to manufacture Italian wine, but had to stop immediately because





he was threatened. However shortly afterward he secured a position as a counter-man in a luncheonette. He worked in that place for about three years. When he quit he had enough money to start in a luncheonette of his own. In the beginning he made out quite well but lost all he had in the beginning of 1929.

Since 1929 he did not have any steady work at all for short periods he worked on farms, but was rarely successful to earn more than his own food for himself and his wife. His oldest son is away from the house for a few years all ready, in fact he does not know where he is now. His <sup>other</sup> two youngest boys work on a farm.

Now he is employed by the S. C. P. R. and he says that he is satisfied. I asked him whether he would want to go back to Italy, he answered firmly, "no".





Mr. R. came to American in 1905 at the age of sixteen. He came here from Italy together with his parents upon the advice of his uncle, who at that time was in New York for a number of years all ready. Mr. R. together with his younger brother began to work in his uncle's shop, which was a well known dyeing house in those days. He did not get along with his uncle very well and after about two years of work he quit and was doing odd jobs in New York.

In about 1911 he decided to go West, as a number of people with whom he came together settled here. A short time after arrival he married and was working in Oakland. His wife died a short time after the marriage. He remarried in 1922 after he was working again after having amputated a leg as a result of the world war.

Now he is selling papers on one of Oakland's busy streets. As for himself, of course, he does not care whether there will be another war or not, but as one who has witnessed a war, he said that he would do anything in his power to keep out of a war. "Although", he said, "I believe Mussolini is a great leader, Mussolini saved Italy from <sup>him</sup> turning into another Russia, and I admire him for that. I can not agree with him about war".

I asked him whether he would consent to have a dictation.





in America, instead of the form of government we have  
now. The answer was yes.



I was born in Milan 1894. My father was a black smith; my mother was a laundress and we were 11 in the family. In my youth they send me to the elementary school then I had to help my father, because the need in the family was great. I worked with my father for 3 years then I decided to come to California. I had heard from some workers that in California, every thing was fine and great, and it was just natural for me to decide. I came to San Francisco directly in 1913, but no work. I was then leaving in a small hotel in Broadway and after 3 months of unemployment with the help of the owner I was able to find work at \$1.35 a day working 10 hours. I worked there for a year and then I decided to try the country for better look. I first went to Sacramento then to Stockton but no work, I then decided to try the mines and I went to Jackson there I got work and there I remained until Uncle Sam entered the European war. I didn't want to enlist and I returned to San Francisco thinking it would be easier to escape enlistment, but one day while working I saw a couple police entering the office of the shop, and few minutes after the boss came to my fore and said John I am sorry but the officers of the law came in







## II

the office and requested the registration of all the workers; they found you at the age of service and you have to enlist or return to Italy to go to war. Seen that I was cut out I enlisted and I served the American Army. I was in France, and I returned after the armistice. After the war I got married and I saved some money; I bought a house and then the crisis came I lost my money in the stock and I have my house well mortgaged and I work only couple days a week and I have two boys go to school.







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4

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